



Staff Report

APPROVAL OF THE ALAMEDA KIOSK LANDSCAPING PLAN AND INSTALLATION

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

In 1997, the City accepted the donation of a small triangular shaped median island (Alameda, Arthur and Covington) from the Pantano family. The Central Neighborhood Association has been working with the Cipriani Neighborhood Association and the Congregational Church to design and landscape the property. The Congregational Church has agreed to maintain the landscaping. The landscape design has been reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission. It is recommended that The Council approve a resolution approving the landscaping plan, the installation of the landscaping, and the contribution of the first two years of maintenance by the Congregational Church.

Background

In 1997 the City accepted the donation of a small triangular shaped median island from the Pantano family. The site at the intersection of Alameda, Arthur Avenue and Covington Road includes the round kiosk building that dates back to the Belmont Country Club Properties subdivision.

In early 2004 the Central Neighborhood Association started the process to design and complete landscape improvements to the site. The Association worked with the Cipriani Neighborhood Association, Congregational Church and neighbors to build support for the project.

Kathleen Stewart, a resident in the Central Neighborhood, donated her landscape architectural services to develop a plan for the landscape improvements. David Hoffman, also a resident of Central Neighborhood Association, will be present at the City Council meeting to present the project to the Council. A copy of the landscaping plan is attached. Mr. Hoffman will be at the Council meeting to provide a presentation on the process, the design and the funding for the project.

A key issue that needed to be addressed is the ongoing maintenance once the improvements are completed. Since the Park and Open Space Service Area maintenance budget has been reduced over the past three years, improvements to new parks have been placed on hold until the budget reductions can be turned around. In order to be consistent with that policy, Park staff is not in a

position to add the maintenance of this median to their workload. However, since this is a very small area to maintain, staff believed that if the neighborhood association could provide maintenance of the site for two years, the park staff can then add the area to their maintenance routine at the end of the second year. The Congregational Church has agreed to provide the maintenance for the first two years and the Parks and Recreation Department will absorb the utility costs in the Parks budget.

Discussion

After the report was prepared and sent to the Commission, a City Council Resolution (#8013) was found and that describes the City Council's agreement in accepting the property. Specifically, it states that "The City Council further agrees to install and maintain one wooden sign at grade on the real property. This sign shall indicate that the building is a "historical landmark donated by Pantano Properties and shall contain the donor's phone number. No lighting shall be provided for the sign. The sign shall be low profile and not located on the building."

At the August 3rd meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Commission made the following recommendations:

- That the landscape design be approved and the donation of the landscaping be accepted, acknowledging that the Congregational Church agrees to maintain the landscaping for 2 years;
- That the building be evaluated to assure that the landscaping installation would not affect the structural stability;
- That pedestrian safety should be taken into consideration (such as adding a crosswalk); and,
- That the Commission would have preferred that the donation sign not be included but they recognize that this was approved by the City Council in accepting the property.

After the Parks & Recreation Commission completed their review and recommendations for the project the Planning Commission reviewed and commented on the plan under the "Protocols for Planning Commission Review of Public Projects". The Planning Commission reviewed the plans and made some suggestions in plant selections that will be less desirable for deer.

Public Works has been consulted on the pedestrian safety issue. They have found that pedestrians are more careful when crosswalks are not present and have therefore recommended that no additional pedestrian features (such as a crosswalk) are needed at the kiosk.

Fiscal Impact

The City receives the value of the landscaping planning, installation, and two years of maintenance. The Parks Department will pay for the minimal water usage at the kiosk within the current budget. After two years, the Parks maintenance staff will add the landscaping to their workload.

Public Contact

The project has had extensive community involvement from the Central Neighborhood Association, the Cipriani Neighborhood Association, and the Congregational Church. These groups have been involved from the start in this project. Public presentations have also been made at the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution accepting the donation of the landscaping planning and installation, approving the landscaping plan, and accepting the donation of two years of maintenance from the Congregational Church.

Alternatives

1. Take no actions.
2. Approve the recommended resolution.
3. Refer any outstanding issues to the Parks and Recreation Commission and/or the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

Attachments

- A. City Council Resolution approving the landscaping plan and accepting the donation of the first two years of maintenance from the Congregational Church.
- B. City Council Resolution #8013 authorizing the grant deed for the property donated by Dennis Pantano.
- C. Site landscaping plan

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bridges
Interim Director, Parks and
Recreation Department

Jack R. Crist
Interim City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT APPROVING
THE ALAMEDA KIOSK LANDSCAPING PLAN AND INSTALLATION**

WHEREAS, In 1997 the City Council, by Resolution #8013, accepted the donation from the Pantano Family of a triangular shaped property known as the Alameda Kiosk; and,

WHEREAS, The Central Neighborhood Association has been working with the Cipriani Neighborhood Association and the Congregational Church on a landscaping plan for the Alameda Kiosk property; and,

WHEREAS, Kathleen Stewart, a Central neighborhood resident has donated her landscaping architectural services to develop a plan for the landscaping improvements; and,

WHEREAS, The Central Neighborhood Association has received grants and donations of \$3,200 for the landscaping improvements; and,

WHEREAS, The Congregational Church has agreed to provide the landscaping maintenance for the first two years;

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended approval of the landscaping plan, installation, and maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the landscaping plan, installation, and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belmont approves the landscaping plan and installation for the kiosk property; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council acknowledges and accepts the donation of two years of maintenance for the kiosk property from the Congregational Church.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on September 13, 2005 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont