



Staff Report

REQUEST FROM THE BELMONT/NAMUR SISTER CITY COMMITTEE TO PLACE A PEACE POLE AT THE NEW LIBRARY

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

The Belmont/Namur Sister City Committee is proposing to purchase and place a Peace Pole at the new Library site, however, a specific location has not been discussed. It would be a four sided pole with eight languages stating: "May peace prevail on earth". The Committee would like to dedicate the pole in April when students from Namur will be visiting Belmont. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends approval of accepting the gift of the Peace Pole.

Background and Discussion

At the January 4, 2006 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Belmont/Namur Sister City Committee presented a proposal to place a Peace Pole at the new Library site. The proposed Peace Pole is four sided and would include "may peace prevail on earth" in eight languages, two languages on each side: English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Indian and Russian. There will be a plaque at the bottom of the pole dedicating it to Namur, Belmont's Sister City.

It was stated that the peace pole idea came to the Sister City Committee from the former Belmont Arts Commission. The Sister City Committee stated that it has received support from Linda Chiochos, the Belmont Library Branch Manager. The Sister City Committee would like to dedicate the peace pole in April when students from Namur will be visiting Belmont.

Although the original idea came from the Arts Commission, the Peace Pole does not fit the "Art in Public Policy" for several reasons. Mainly, there is no artist and it is a manufactured item. So most of the Art in Public Policy review criteria are not applicable. Thus, Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the Peace Pole proposal in general terms rather than specifically following the Art in Public Policy guidelines.

The Parks and Recreation Commission raised questions about the politics of the Peace Pole organization and were assured that there was no partisan political backing, noting that various organizations and nearby cities have Peace Poles (see attached literature). No specific locations were discussed at the Commission meeting.

The Parks and Recreation Commission moved to recommend to the City Council: to accept the gift of a Peace Pole from the Sister City Committee; that it be placed in a peaceful location on the library site (not necessarily Belameda Park); that it be four-sided with eight languages; that it have a plaque to show the reason for the peace pole; and, that the top have a brass hat.

Fiscal Impact

No Fiscal Impact.

Public Contact

Agendized and discussed at the January 4, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the City Council accept the gift of the Peace Pole. If approved by the City Council, staff will work on the location for the pole for approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Alternatives

1. Take no action
2. Refer back to Parks and Recreation Commission

Attachments

- A. Description of Peace Poles
- B. Correspondence regarding the Peace Pole proposal

Respectfully submitted,

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