



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

16-0566

Agenda Date: 2/17/2017

2017 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 17-05

TITLE Orchard Heritage Park and Heritage Park Museum - Analysis and Options for the Long-Term Operations and Maintenance of Orchard Heritage Park and Review of the Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association Proposed Expansion of the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum Site

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Public Works

Support Department(s): N/A

Sponsor(s):

City Manager, Deanna J. Santana

History:

1 year ago: N/A

2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What are the key elements of the study?

Orchard Operations and Maintenance

The Council has expressed interest in analyzing options for the future operations and maintenance of the Orchard. The Orchard is currently maintained by volunteer work and no long-term operational plan has been developed, yet.

Expansion of the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum Site

The Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association (SHSMA) expressed interest in exploring the possibility of expanding the museum grounds at Orchard Heritage Park further east to Michelangelo Drive. The purpose of the expansion would be to accommodate additional items such as exhibits, historical structures, a windmill and ultimately creating one cohesive location including the orchard. The expansion will require the removal of trees in the orchard.

Study

If approved, this study would engage the community, stakeholders, and current operators and volunteers to:

1. Identify long-term options for operating and maintaining the orchard.
2. Review concepts to expand the current Museum facility, including the identification of boundary limits.

Staff would hire a consultant to develop concepts for site plans, identify utility needs, review CEQA, assess potential costs, and complete a community engagement process.

What precipitated this study?

In 2015, Council approved Study Issue DPW 15-10 which analyzed the potential of relocating the Butcher House to Orchard Heritage Park. On April 5, 2016, staff presented Council with three alternatives which included locating the Butcher House within the orchard, locating the Butcher House to the lawn area across from the museum, or not relocating the Butcher House (RTC 16-0182). Council discussed the alternatives and members of the public spoke regarding the various options. Representatives of the museum also spoke and clarified that they would only proceed with moving the Butcher House if it was relocated to their preferred location in the orchard. A motion for Alternative 1, to relocate the Butcher House within the orchard (the location preferred by the Historical Society), failed on a 3-3 vote.

Since SHSMA indicated they would not support moving the Butcher House to the lawn area across from the museum, Council requested staff to meet with them and see if any other options were available to relocate the Butcher House to Orchard Heritage Park without removing any apricot trees. Staff held a meeting with the SHSMA on May 3, 2016, and the SHSMA reiterated they did not support moving the Butcher House anywhere else except for in the orchard because it does not align with their vision of expanding the museum grounds to Michelangelo Drive. On July 26, 2016, the City Council rescinded its previous Council action and took action to not relocate the Butcher House.

On multiple occasions Council has also expressed concern and interest regarding the long-term viability of the orchard, and the development of a plan for future operations and maintenance. It would be most appropriate to combine both these items into one study, as each decision would affect the other.

Planned Completion Year: FY 2018/2019

FISCAL IMPACT**Cost to Conduct Study**

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Moderate

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$350,000

Funding Source: Will seek budget supplement

Explanation of Cost:

The cost identified above is for consultant services that are necessary to complete the work effort. The consultant team will require many different levels of expertise including land use, engineering, environmental, economics, and community outreach. The Department of Public Works (DPW) would be responsible for managing the project which includes developing a scope of work, hiring a consultant, managing the consultant, reviewing all work products, participating in all necessary public outreach as well as presentations to commissions and City Council. There has been significant public feedback with regards to the orchard and museum and staff anticipates that this Study Issue will require a community engagement process beyond what is required for a typical Study Issue.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown; study would include assessment of potential costs.

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Parks and Recreation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Position: Defer

Explanation: There has been a significant amount of discussion regarding the orchard and museum for the past year, and the development of an overall vision and a plan for future operations and maintenance would provide benefits to guide future decisions. However, at this time, the immediate improvements that the Council prioritized are underway and overall the orchard and museum are both relatively functioning. The orchard continues to be well maintained and is an asset to the City. The museum is also a City asset, and staff is moving forward with relocating the City maintenance facility and constructing permanent improvements to further enhance the site. The study issue does have benefits, but the project would be a significant effort that will include a number of staff already working on many other City major priority projects and, the trade-off of reassigning capacity to this effort, does not outweigh the need to focus on other significant capital projects. These include the reconstruction of the Water pollution Control Plant, the branch library, reconstruction of Lakewood Park, Washington Community Swim Center, and the Community Center. Similarly to the branch library where we had to delay Fair Oaks Park improvements to focus on the branch library, the same would need to be done to absorb this effort. The level of effort required for this study issue could require re-shuffling of City project priorities and schedules.

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Reviewed By: Walter C. Rossmann, Assistant City Manager

Approved By: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager