



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 40.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: AUGUST 17, 2011

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH N. FRETWELL

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Discussion of possible action to relocate the Veterans Memorial from Huntridge Circle Park located at Frank Sinatra Avenue and North Maryland Parkway to Heritage Park located at 888 North Las Vegas Boulevard, Bards 5 and 3 (Barlow and Coffin)

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Representatives for the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization created by American Shooters, will provide an update on the Veterans Memorial and the relocation from Huntridge Circle Park to Heritage Park. If the relocation is approved by the City Council the Las Vegas Veterans Foundation will request that Mr. Douwe Blumberg provide a new site plan for the Veterans Memorial in Heritage Park using the same foot print as in Huntridge Circle Park. The remaining balance of land will remain a Childrens Park. An amendment to R-96-2002 - Resolution Designating Heritage Park As A Childrens Park will be brought before the City Council once that site plan has been completed by Mr. Blumberg. The Memorial Park will honor past, present and future veterans and their families. The Las Vegas Memorial Foundation will donate the Memorial to the City of Las Vegas upon completion. All funding for the construction of this project will be made through private donations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at Meeting Support Letter by Brian Paco Alvarez, Opposition Letter and Photos by Lonnie Hammargren and Photos, Maps and Documentation by Ric Bismannof

Motion made by BOB COFFIN to Approve

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, STAVROS S. ANTHONY, STEVEN D. ROSS, BOB COFFIN; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)



OF: AUGUST 17, 2011

Minutes:

CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL stated that 1.5 acres of Heritage Park can be dedicated to the memorial and that the plan is to implement a two-step process that includes allowing the artist to evaluate the site and bring a plan back before the Council for approval. Her desire is to leave the majority of the park as a children's park.

MICK CATRON, President of the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial Foundation, believes the Heritage Park location would complement the cultural corridor and activity in the downtown area without requiring a modification of the park. The residential area, traffic congestion and lack of parking were some of the concerns he raised about locating the memorial in Huntridge Circle Park.

MAYOR GOODMAN received confirmation from MR. CATRON that the Veterans Memorial Foundation Board agreed with the location change, but that formal fundraising efforts had not formally begun. COUNCILMAN ROSS thanked MR. CATRON for being willing to make the memorial a reality.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW stated his full support for the building of the memorial even if that means having to build it in Unincorporated Clark County.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON received confirmation from MR. CATRON that construction will take approximately 2.5 years and that it can begin once the contract and funds are obtained (an approximate one month process).

The Mayor received confirmation from CITY MANAGER FRETWELL that there are no costs to the City at this time although it will continue to be monitored and that communications between her office and the Veterans Memorial Foundation continue as the project progresses.

DAVID LOPEZ, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, voiced his support of the move to Heritage Park and his support for the veterans and their memorial.

LONNIE HAMMARGREN, submitted a letter and photos for the record before stating his opposition to the proposed move. He discussed concerns regarding Heritage Park, including a sign stating adults were not allowed without a child and did not agree that the park was easily accessible or visible. MAYOR GOODMAN asked him to submit his suggestions

RIC BESMANOFF, Las Vegas resident, submitted photos, artists renderings and other documents for the record and presented the Council with a framed artist's rendering of the memorial. He also stated his opposition to the Heritage Park location stating it would attract a criminal element to the children's park, therefore making the monument less suitable

MARY JOY, Las Vegas resident, daughter and mother to veterans not only supports a veterans memorial but also believes with the correct signage and advertising, Heritage Park is a better location.



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DEAN WHITAKER, Las Vegas Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, requested an accounting of the original \$200,000 raised by the American Heroes Challenge. MR. CATRON stated he has no knowledge of prior funds raised. COUNCILMAN ROSS stated that the American Heroes Challenge was an expensive event to host and that as a 501(C)3 all of their financial information is available. LEE ANN WHITTAKER stated it was not their intent to question or accuse anyone of misappropriation, but to show support for the transparency of the project.

BRIAN PACCOIA, Las Vegas resident, supports the proposed change of location due its historical location. He submitted his comments for the record.

JACK LEVINE, Las Vegas resident, supports the Huntridge Circle Park location but is not opposed to Heritage Park.

CAESAR ELPIDIO, Executive Director of the Filipino-American Veterans of Nevada, expressed support for the memorial but opposed moving it from Huntridge Circle Park.

PETER "CHRIS" CHRISTOFF, Las Vegas resident, displayed artists renderings of a memorial on the overhead monitors.

MAYOR GOODMAN stated she hopes that citizens will continue to make suggestions in order to help staff move forward.

ANTHONY HODGES, Las Vegas resident, believes that Heritage Park is a better location but that the City needs to protect children from increased traffic.

JANET SNYDER, President of the Las Vegas Chapter of Gold Star Wives of America, would like to see the memorial built in order to have a place to remember their fallen family members.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON received clarification from CITY MANAGER FRETWELL that both the City and the Veterans Memorial Foundation independently explored alternative locations and chose Heritage Park as one of the best locations.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN stated that while she has supported MR. CHRISTOFF'S efforts and hard work, she supports the move due to current traffic problems at the Huntridge Circle Park. MAYOR GOODMAN added that the chosen park has to be able to accommodate future expansion should additional memorials be built.

COUNCILMAN COFFIN does not believe that residents near Huntridge Circle Park were ever consulted and believes moving the memorial to Heritage Park would prevent the reduction of Huntridge Circle Park by building additional parking. He also wanted it to be clear that a memorial will be built.