



City of Santa Barbara
Community Development Department

Memorandum

DATE: October 12, 2007

TO: Park & Recreation Commission

FROM: Marck Aguilar, Redevelopment Specialist

SUBJECT: Plaza de la Guerra Infrastructure - Concept Design

At City Council direction, the Redevelopment Agency with assistance from the design firm of Campbell and Campbell is developing a comprehensive concept design for infrastructure improvements to Plaza de la Guerra. Comments from the Parks and Recreation Commission are requested at this early stage.

Some of the concept elements being explored include:

- New trash & recycling container enclosure at the south corner of the City Hall lot to serve businesses adjacent to Plaza.
- Raised roadway surface between State Street and Anacapa Street and in the Plaza's "U"-shaped road
- Removal of parking in the Plaza loop road (approximately 35 spaces). Operationally, morning deliveries would be accommodated.
- Diagonal parking on De la Guerra Street between State and Santa Barbara Street (2 blocks). This recaptures some spaces removed from the Plaza road.
- One-way traffic on De la Guerra Street between State Street and Anacapa Street (1 block)
- Potential for use of several parking spaces in the City Hall lot for 15-minute public parking (south corner of lot). This also recaptures short-term parking spaces.
- Potential for outdoor dining in the "sidewalk/road" area behind the dining establishments backing up to the Plaza (Kai, El Cazador, Ruby's) and in Storke Placita adjacent to Blenders in the Grass
- New stairway from Storke Placita down toward the 5-foot wide alley ("Caesar's Alley") next to Blenders in the Grass.

(cont.)

- Relocation of the main electrical service box
- Bollards along sidewalk to separate pedestrians from vehicles.
- Inclusion of a fountain or water element.
- A hardscape path across the lawn.

Agency staff would appreciate the Park and Recreation Commission's focus and comments on the following:

Hardscape:

- ▶ Raised roadway surface on E. De la Guerra Street between State Street and Anacapa Street and in the "U"-shaped roadway within the Plaza to provide a flush interface with the Plaza lawn resulting in a more pedestrian-friendly design (with slope to accommodate drainage)
- ▶ Changing the asphalt roadway surface to colored concrete
- ▶ Removal of parking within the "U"-shaped roadway within the Plaza
- ▶ A new water feature and a hardscape pathway across the turf

Landscape

- ▶ Introduction of canopy trees along the west and east sides of the plaza
- ▶ Potential enlargement of turf area (width and length)

Other

- ▶ Potential outdoor dining in a portion of Storke Placita and along the west side of the plaza, adjacent to the existing restaurants
- ▶ A trash/recycling enclosure in the southwest corner of the City Hall parking lot to serve businesses in/around the plaza
- ▶ Moving the main electrical service box housed on the plaza lawn to a location in the vicinity of the east side sidewalk, by the City Hall parking lot
- ▶ Other Commission recommendations

Other groups reviewing the concept and providing comments include the: Downtown Organization, Downtown Parking Committee, Historic Landmarks Commission, Transportation & Circulation Committee, general public and Planning Commission. Plans will be modified to some degree based on comments received and the concept will then again be brought through the same series of groups for subsequent discussion. It is anticipated that the HLC will have purview over the final design.