



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 17, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Adult Fitness and Stretch Area at the Andrée Clark Bird Refuge

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

- A. Make the following findings pursuant to SBMC Section 28.37.025 to approve the installation of the Adult Fitness and Stretch Area at the Andrée Clark Bird Refuge:
 - i. That the proposed park improvements are appropriate or necessary for the benefit of the community and visitors;
 - ii. That the proposed park facilities including lighting, play areas, and associated landscaping, will be compatible with the character of the neighborhood;
 - iii. That the total area of the site and the setbacks of all facilities from the property lines and street are sufficient, in view of the physical character of the land, proposed development and neighborhood, to avoid significant negative effects on surrounding properties;
 - iv. That the intensity of park use is appropriate and compatible with the character of the neighborhood;
 - v. That the proposed park is compatible with the scenic character of the City;
 - vi. That the proposed structures are compatible with the neighborhood in terms of size, bulk and scale or location; and
- B. Recommend that staff finalize project design and proceed with design review and construction.

DISCUSSION:

Background

For the past five years, the Parks and Recreation Department has evaluated opportunities to install stationary adult fitness equipment in various park locations. In 2009, staff worked with the Trust for Public Land and the County of Santa Barbara to locate equipment in Eastside Neighborhood Park. In 2011, staff submitted a Community Development Block

Grant (CDBG) proposal for the installation of fitness equipment at Eastside Neighborhood Park and Bohnett Park. Neither of these projects received funding. In early 2014, staff also developed a conceptual plan for equipment at the new Bath St Pocket Park. That project was not pursued, since community input and Commission review led to the design of a park with a playground for young children.

In April 2014, staff met with Bill and Lorraine McIntosh to discuss the potential to locate fitness stretch equipment at the Andrée Clark Bird Refuge (Bird Refuge). A long-time community member and former runner, Mr. McIntosh expressed his desire to support active fitness in general, and the local running community, in particular. Staff supported his proposal, and Mr. McIntosh donated \$10,000 to the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation for the equipment.

In addition to the proposed outdoor equipment for the Bird Refuge, staff is developing a CDBG proposal to install an adult fitness area at Bohnett Park. The grant proposal, which will be submitted on December 16th, also includes replacement of the children's playground at the park. Staff is also including an evaluation of an adult fitness area for the Cabrillo Ball Park Renovation Project. The Commission will receive a presentation on the Cabrillo Ball Park project at the January 28, 2015, Commission meeting.

Project Design

The Bird Refuge includes a portion of the multi-modal path that extends from Leadbetter Beach through the Waterfront, and along East Beach. The path is very popular for running, walking, and cycling as well as casual park use. The path turnaround is located at the Bird Refuge parking lot on Los Patos Way. This location also includes an open area that is suitable for installation of fitness equipment.

During the evaluation of the site and stretch equipment options, staff determined that there is adequate space to include additional pieces of equipment. This provides an opportunity for the Department to establish a small scale adult fitness area without a significant capital investment and with minimal site improvements. Staff identified a manufacturer with a design appropriate to the park's location and open space. Norwell Outdoor Fitness produces stainless steel outdoor equipment with a simple, open design that blends well with more natural environments and does not block views.

As shown in Attachments 1 and 2, the proposed project design includes four pieces of equipment that would be set in mulch adjacent to the multi-modal path. The pieces of equipment include a stretch bar, bench, hip flex, and air walker. The equipment ranges in height from 1 foot 7 inches (bench) to 4 feet, 1 inch (stretch bar, air walker and hip flex). All four can support either general exercise or warm-up/cool down activities for runners, walkers, and cyclists. The 2,000 square foot project area also includes signage to explain the equipment. The Department would post information on its web site about how to use the equipment and the sign includes a QR code that links to video demonstrations.

Project Permitting and Installation

With Commission approval of the conceptual design and project findings, staff will complete the design drawings and submit an application for design review. The project requires review by the Historic Landmarks Commission since the park is located in the El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District. It is anticipated that if design approvals are secured in January, the installation of the equipment could occur by March 2015

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The total project cost is estimated to be \$23,000. This includes the purchase of the equipment and installation. The Department will contribute \$13,000 from its Fiscal Year 2015 operating budget in addition to the \$10,000 donation from Mr. McIntosh.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Photo Simulation
2. Site Plan

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