



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 18, 2019
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Facilities and Energy Division, Public Works Department
SUBJECT: Central Library Plaza Renovation Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive a presentation on the status and overview of the Central Library Plaza Renovation Project.

DISCUSSION:

Background

On June 29, 2010, the Redevelopment Agency Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2010 Capital Program which included the allocation of \$150,000 toward the planning and design of the Central Library Plaza Renovation Project. Project goals included a public open space that would be safe and inviting, an accessible plaza that would serve as a community gathering place, an enhanced paseo between Anapamu Street, La Arcada, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and reduced maintenance costs.

The original concept envisioned removal of walls to improve visibility and open sightlines throughout, improved universal access to the library, and the incorporation of sustainability concepts.

Conceptual & Preliminary Design Phase Consultant Services

The landscape architect firm of Campbell & Campbell was hired in 2011 to complete the conceptual and preliminary design phase. Design work was halted in 2012, due to the elimination of the Redevelopment Agencies.

In July 2013, with the restoration of funding, design work resumed. At that time, the scope of the project was expanded to include the entire Library parcel. Expansion was needed for two reasons: 1) the concurrent Santa Barbara Museum of Art redevelopment and expansion project; and 2) the need to address accessibility at the south entrance as a result of the Children's Library Project. The Parks and Recreation Commission received a presentation on the draft concept design on January 22, 2014 (Attachment 1). The

Central Library Plaza Renovation Project received project design approval from the Historic Landmarks Commission on June 18, 2014.

Final Design Consultant Services

On August 5, 2014, Campbell & Campbell was hired to provide final design services for the Central Library Plaza Renovation Project. The proposed tree removals received recommendations for approval from the Street Tree Advisory Committee on March 5, 2015. The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed and approved the design on March 25, 2015 (Attachment 2). On May 20, 2015, the Historic Landmarks Commission granted Final Approval.

Due to lack of construction funding for the entire project, the project was divided into two phases. Phase I included accessibility upgrades to the south entrance, which were completed in October 2017. Phase II includes renovation of the main plaza along Anapamu Street as well as the secondary plaza in front of the old library entrance, the paseo running from Anapamu Street to La Arcada, and Lower Library Plaza.

For Phase II final design services, a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued August 21, 2018. The City received four proposals on September 12, 2018. After review, City staff recommended Arcadia Studio. City Council awarded a Professional Services Agreement to Arcadia Studio on October 10, 2018. Arcadia Studio has completed 60 percent design development documents.

Phase II Project Description

Phase II includes upgraded landscape and hardscape areas around the perimeter of the Santa Barbara Central Library and Faulkner Gallery located at 40 East Anapamu Street. Upgrades would include 5,980 square feet of additional hardscape, 980 cubic yards of soil to be cut and removed, the removal of 32 existing trees (16 will be boxed and transplanted on and off-site), the addition of 42 new trees, new planters, monument signs, artwork, lighting, and approximately 9,800 square feet of activity space. The proposed tree removals were approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2015. All hardscape would be compliant with current accessibility codes. No changes to the buildings are proposed, nor will the project obscure or have a negative impact on the City Landmarks on the site.

Notable changes from the 2014 plans include a revised planting plan to comply with current water conservation policies, revised site grading to comply with accessibility codes, a revised walkway and ramp between the upper and lower plazas, a revised historic Anapamu entrance layout, revised hardscape materials, and use of two mosaic tile areas in lieu of raised planters in front of the Faulkner Gallery entrance. The 2014 plans included only 3,200 square feet of additional hardscape, whereas the proposed plan would add 2,780 square feet in addition to the 3,200 square feet proposed in the

2014 plans for a total additional hardscape of 5,980 square feet. The additional hardscape is located at the Anapamu historic entrance, the historic Faulkner Gallery entrance, and the main plaza area to provide additional space for library and community activities and programming.

Planning Approval Process

Throughout design development, the design team has met several times with the Library Board, the Santa Barbara Public Library Foundation, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. The Historic Landmarks Commission has reviewed the concept design on June 12, 2019 and again on July 24, 2019 (Attachment 3).

On October 23, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed and approved the removal of the (2) *Phoenix reclinata*, Senegal Date Palms, and denied removal of the (2) *Pyrus calleryana*, Flowering Ornamental Pears. As stated during the Commission meeting, it will be possible to retain the *Pyrus calleryana*, Flowering Ornamental Pears, within the renovated Plaza.

The Historic Landmarks Commission granted project design approval with conditions and findings on November 27, 2019 (Attachment 5). The project will be presented for final design approval in January 2020.

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