



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley District 7
 2180 Milvia St., Fifth Floor Berkeley, CA 94704
 PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 worthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 12, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Subject: Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project

RECOMMENDATION

That the Berkeley City Council accept the gift of the three elements of the Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project: (1) archway at north end of the park with the words HALCYON COMMONS and animal cutouts related to park history; (2) bronze-cast sculpture of halcyon bird (a kingfisher associated with peace), which was planned as part of the original park design; and (3) refurbishment of the south end of the park, including in-fill planting from park palette and placement of boulders and flagstone.

BACKGROUND

The Halcyon Commons Neighborhood Association began in 1992 by transforming a 28-space parking lot in the center of Halcyon Court into a park. A core group of volunteers donated their professional skills and labor through the four-year process of designing Halcyon Commons and getting City approval and funding of \$109,000 to create the park in a collaborative City-neighborhood partnership.

The gift to fund the Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project was made possible by the UC Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund. All necessary funds are coming through the Friends of Halcyon Commons account managed by fiscal agent Berkeley Partners for Parks.

The conception and design of the features of the Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project came from two-community design workshops facilitated by experienced group leaders as well as UC graduate student volunteers. Hundreds of residents of the immediate neighborhood and thousands of members of the larger community have received notice over the past year to ensure that park users and neighbors are fully aware and welcome to participate in the visioning and implementation of the project.

The Halcyon Commons Neighborhood Association (HNA) provided a presentation on April 23, 2007, to the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project and a presentation to the Civic Arts Commission on April 25, 2007. Following the presentation, the Association requested that the Commissions offer support for the project.

The Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously recommended that the City accept the gift of the three elements of the Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project and that the Commission recommend to Berkeley City Council that any permit fees be waived.

On April 25, 2007, the Civic Arts Commission also unanimously approved the two elements of the Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project that involve public art components (the archway and the sculpture). According to the 1999 Percent for Art Resolution and the parent 1985 Visual Arts Ordinance, all public art is approved by the Civic Arts Commission. The Arts Commission also recommended that any permit fees be waived.

The only element of the project that involves a permit fee is the metalwork archway, because it is over eight feet tall. However, there is no need for a fee waiver as the Acting Director of the Parks Recreation and Waterfront Department, William Rogers, has agreed to pay the permit fee out of carryover funds from the Capital Projects Budget, in recognition of the tremendous job the Friends of Halcyon Commons have done in developing and sustaining Halcyon Commons and because their initiative and work is leading to the rejuvenation of one of our City's parks.

All that remains to be done to allow for the implementation of the three features of the Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project is for the City Council to vote to accept this gift from the Friends of Halcyon Commons/Halcyon Neighborhood Association (fiscal sponsor, Berkeley Partners for Parks).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NONE. The group is no longer asking for a permit fee waiver since the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department is handling the fee out of existing funds.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 981-7170.

Attachment:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. –N.S.

ACCEPTING AND ACKNOWLEDGING DONATION OF IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HALCYON COMMONS REJUVENATION PROJECT FROM FRIENDS OF HALCYON COMMONS/HALCYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council accepts and acknowledges the donation of the following improvements at the Halcyon Commons Rejuvenation Project from Friends of Halcyon Commons/Halcyon Neighborhood Association:

1. an archway at north end of the park with the words HALCYON COMMONS and animal cutouts related to park history;
2. a bronze-cast sculpture of halcyon bird (a kingfisher associated with peace) which was planned as part of the original park design; and
3. refurbishment of the south end of the park, including in-fill planting from park palette and placement of boulders and flagstone.

