

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 05-313

DATE November 16, 2005

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK BOYS' CAMP AND HOLLYWOODLAND GIRLS' CAMP-
CAMBERSHIP FUNDS DONATED BY THE LATE AMIR DIALAMEH

J. Combs <u><i>JK</i></u>	J. Kolb _____
H. Fujita _____	F. Mok _____
S. Huntley _____	*K. Regan _____
B. Jensen _____	M. Shull _____

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Accept with gratitude, the donation of \$133,846.67 received by the Department as beneficiary of Amir Dialameh for the benefit of the Griffith Park Boys' Camp and Hollywoodland Girls' Camp for youth camperships and direct that the proper recognition be given to the donor; and,
2. Authorize the establishment of Account 992K in Fund 302, Department 89, to receive the \$133,846.67 donation and keep track of the disbursements for camperships.

SUMMARY:

A good friend of Griffith Park, Amir Dialameh, passed away on October 27, 2004, at the age of 71. Working in his free time, Amir transformed close to five acres of Griffith Park above the Mineral Wells Picnic Area into a public garden. Amir began working on the five-acre plot after a fire swept through the Park in 1971. His goal was to establish an attractive rest stop for hikers. In 1983, the garden was dedicated by the City and a sign reading "Amir's Garden" was placed at the entrance.

Amir's Garden has been a field destination for the children from the nearby Griffith Park Boys' Camp and Hollywoodland Girls' Camp. He would entertain the children by having blue jays eat peanuts out of his hands. Amir frequently assisted camp staff by leading informational hikes throughout the Park as a volunteer.

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Amir's love for the children prompted him to make the Griffith Park Boys' Camp and Hollywoodland Girls' Camp the beneficiary of his Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This gift was specifically designated by Amir to be used for camperships so that future campers would be able to enjoy the trail hikes to "Amir's Garden."

The process for obtaining camperships is advertised in the camp brochure and on the Department's website. All children who are residents of the City of Los Angeles and qualify for financial assistance under the State of California guidelines are given the opportunity to apply by submitting a campership application and supporting documentation. The number of camperships will be based on the amount of interest generated each year plus \$5,000 of the principal. Each campership will pay for the cost of an entire week at camp (approximately \$200) minus a \$50 fee paid by the camper. Staff anticipates that Amir's donation will provide 50 camperships a year for 28 years. This is a total of 1,400 camperships.

Staff members from the Hollywoodland and the Griffith Park camps will meet to decide which applicants will receive the camperships. The first camperships will go to children who have never previously attended the camp and then to children who have never previously received a campership will be considered. Each campership will be for a one week session and only one campership will be issued per family.

Recognition is to be sent to Amir's brother, Masoud Dialameh. As Mr. Dialameh no longer resides in Southern California, he is unable to attend the Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The checks from the IRA were received in January 2005, and deposited within a few days in MRP Account 710 CAMP SCHOLARSHIP. Approval of this Board Report will authorize the Chief Financial Officer to deposit the \$133,846.67 into the newly established interest-bearing Account 992K in Fund 302, Department 89. Approval of this Board Report will also allow the Department to offer additional camperships to kids without additional General Fund costs.

Report prepared by Ann Vollmer and Tom Petrique of Operations East.