

APPROVED
JUL 09 2008

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-202

DATE July 9, 2008

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 12

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: O'MELVENY PARK - INSTALLATION OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES IN HONOR OF DONOR OF 672 ACRES OF THE PARK, JOHN O'MELVENY

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
V. Israel	_____	*M. Shull	_____

Text for MS

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of two (2) boulders with commemorative plaques at O'Melveny Park;
2. Approve the wording on the commemorative plaques as described in this Report; and,
3. Direct staff to install the boulders, foundation, and plaques, as indicated; and,
4. Authorize Department staff to issue a right-of-entry permit to Mr. Bob Nicksin, O'Melveny & Myers, LLP.

SUMMARY:

O'Melveny Park is located in the Chatsworth area of Los Angeles. During the early 1970's, John O'Melveny arranged for Corinne O'Melveny's estate to sell her one-half interest in this property to the City at below market price. Mr. O'Melveny donated his one-half interest to the City outright. In 1976, he arranged for these 672 acres of land to be deeded to the City for O'Melveny Park. This is the second largest park in the Department's inventory. The law firm of O'Melveny & Myers has requested permission to install two (2) plaques at this site to honor Mr. John O'Melveny.

The Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council has reviewed this proposal and has expressed support. The law firm would pay for the plaques and boulders where the plaques would be

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mounted. One plaque would be approximately 14" X 18", with a bas relief of the donor, and the following verbiage (See Exhibit A):

"John O'Melveny...I want to be remembered as working at my office, roping cattle, and judging bulldogs...The land comprising O'Melveny Park was purchased in 1941 by attorney John O'Melveny and his wife Corinne. They named it C. J. Ranch and used it for growing citrus fruit, grazing cattle, and raising prize-winning bulldogs. In 1976, John O'Melveny arranged for the land to be deeded to the City for use as a park. At 672 acres, O'Melveny Park is the second largest park in the City of Los Angeles."

The second plaque would be approximately 12" x 16", and provide the following history (See Exhibit B):

"The Law Firm of O'Melveny & Myers...John O'Melveny, the former owner of this property, was the son of Henry W. O'Melveny who, in 1885, founded Los Angeles' oldest law firm, O'Melveny & Myers. The O'Melveny law firm represented many of Los Angeles' founding families, including Sepulveda, Bixby, Doheny, Van Nuys, Rindge, and Oxnard, and played a key role in the development of Los Angeles and Southern California. Born in Los Angeles in 1894, John O'Melveny led O'Melveny & Myers from 1926 to 1970. He died in 1984."

The plaques would be placed adjacent to the picnic area and the caretaker residence in the park.

With great appreciation and gratitude to Mr. O'Melveny, a valuable significant park and open space was preserved for the community for generations to come. These plaques provide information and history relative to this man who, because of his foresight and generosity, provided accessible and serene areas of parkland for public enjoyment. Installation of these plaques, honoring this man, provides some personal history about Mr. John O'Melveny and his contributions to the City of Los Angeles.

The applicant, Mr. Bob Nicksin, with O'Melveny & Myers, LLP, will fund the plaques, installation and be responsible for maintenance of the plaques. A right-of-entry permit will be issued to Mr. Nicksin relative to plaque maintenance and replacement, if needed.

Staff has determined that the plaque installation is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (1), of the City CEQA Guidelines.

Councilmember Greg Smith of Council District Twelve and the Valley Region Superintendent support the recommendations contained in this report.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Installation of these items will have minimal impact on the Department's General Fund, as the cost of the plaques, the boulders and installation will be funded by the applicant. Also, minimal maintenance will be required for the upkeep of the boulders and the plaques.

This report was prepared by Louis Loomis, Management Analyst II, Valley Region, and Camille Walls, City Planner, Planning and Development.



“I want to be remembered as working at my office, roping cattle, and judging bulldogs.”

John O'Melveny

The land comprising O'Melveny Park was purchased in 1941 by attorney John O'Melveny and his wife Corinne. They named it C. J. Ranch, and used it for growing citrus fruit, grazing cattle, and raising prize-winning bulldogs. In 1976, O'Melveny arranged for the land to be deeded to the City for use as a park. At 672 acres, O'Melveny Park is the second-largest park in the City of Los Angeles.

The Law Firm of O'Melveny & Myers

John O'Melveny, the former owner of this property, was the son of Henry W. O'Melveny who, in 1885, founded Los Angeles' oldest law firm, O'Melveny & Myers. The O'Melveny law firm represented many of Los Angeles' founding families, including Sepulveda, Bixby, Doheny, Van Nuys, Rindge and Oxnard, and played a key role in the development of Los Angeles and Southern California. Born in Los Angeles in 1894, John O'Melveny led O'Melveny & Myers from 1926 to 1970. He died in 1984.