

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

JUN 17 2009

NO. 09-170

DATE June 17, 2009

BOARD OF RECREATION and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LANI VEST POCKET PARK - RENAMING OF PARK SITE AS ROSS VALENCIA COMMUNITY PARK AND INSTALLATION OF APPROPRIATE PARK SIGNAGE

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
V. Israel	_____	*M. Shull	<i>ms</i>

Regalado

 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Rename LANI Vest Pocket Park to Ross Valencia Community Park; and,
2. Authorize the installation of appropriate park signage.

SUMMARY:

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) Vest Pocket Park is a pocket park located at East 1st Street and Chicago Street in the Boyle Heights community. This facility is a 0.08 acre unstaffed park site which has landscaping and walking paths.

In December, 2008, the Department of Recreation and Parks ("Department") was contacted by Council District 14 with a request to rename the LANI Vest Pocket Park as the "Ross Valencia Community Park." Ross Valencia was active in the Boyle Heights community for many years in various community organizations including the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, the Metro Resident Advisory Committee, the American Legion, the Boyle Heights Resident Homeowners Associations, Inc., and the LAPD Community Advisory Board. Mr. Valencia was a founding member of the Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce and an original member of the LANI Vest Pocket Park Steering Committee.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2 NO. 09-170

The Council Office supplied the Department with a petition of support for this proposed name change signed by two hundred and fifty (250) community members.

On December 29, 2008, the Department sponsored a community meeting to discuss the proposed name change. The meeting was attended by over 60 people, with nearly unanimous support for the proposed name change. One alternative proposal was made, to name the park after Officer Steve Gajda, a Boyle Heights police officer who died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty on December 31, 1997.

Costs of the Department's standard park sign with the new name, and sign installation will be paid for by the Council Office.

The Department Naming Committee has reviewed this proposal and found no objections. Conceptual approval for this proposed park naming was granted by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners on March 4, 2009 (Board Report No. 09-052).

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article VII, Section 1, Class 11(1) of the City CEQA Guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to the recreational facilities.

The Office of Council District 14 and the Griffith-Metro Region Superintendent are in support with the recommendations as set forth by the Department.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The approval of this project will not have any fiscal impact on the Department, as the cost of the signage will be funded by the Council Office.

This report was prepared by Camille Walls, City Planner, and Melinda Gejer, Planning Associate, Planning and Development.