



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

PREPARED BY: KATHY KLEINBAUM, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST
SHEILA CANZIAN, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

MEETING DATE: JUNE 4, 2014

SUBJECT: MODIFICATIONS TO BAY MEADOWS LINEAR PARK DESIGN
DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATION

Review and comment on the proposed design development modifications to the Bay Meadows Linear Park; and make a recommendation to the City Council to approve the placement of the "San Mateo Bridge" sculpture by Charles Ginnever in the public park.

BACKGROUND

In 2007 the Park and Recreation Commission reviewed and concurred with the design development plans for the Bay Meadows Linear Park. (Attachment 1) This park along with Paddock Park were to be constructed by the Bay Meadows development and then dedicated as city park land. Paddock Park was completed last year and is open for public use. The Linear Park is designed to provide a graceful transition between the Mixed Use Zones (retail/office/residential) to the west of the park and the residential zone to the east. The park is divided into three blocks starting at 28th Avenue and terminating at the View Corridor Promenade and primarily consists of passive use areas, lush plantings and a variety of both intimate and social spaces.

Bay Meadows development is interested in proceeding with the construction of the Linear Park and is seeking concurrence for two changes to the original design; the first is to separate the placement of the "dining rooms", consisting of tables, seating and arbors, with one "dining room" replacing one of the "reading rooms" ; re-locate the one remaining "reading room" to serve as the main entry into the park, and introduce a bocce court; and the second modification is to install a sculpture, "San Mateo Bridge" in the open lawn area. A discussion of these modifications is provided below.

Design Modification-Bocce Court

The original design goal of the north block was to create a series of special passive activity areas or “rooms” consisting of the dining room, a garden lounge and reading rooms, each with a variety of seating areas, plantings, etc. While maintaining the garden lounge and reading room as relatively passive, reflective areas, Bay Meadows believes there is a need for a low impact, active area such as a bocce court that will allow for a small group to gather for informal play. The court will have arbors at either end and will include seating for players and spectators. The court surface will consist of EPDM synthetic (rubber) surfacing that is poured in place over concrete. This same treatment was recently installed in new courts in the city of San Carlos and is well liked by the bocce players and will minimize the need for daily maintenance. The revised site plan is included as Attachment 2.

Design Modification-Sculpture Placement

In 2005, the City adopted the Art in Public Places ordinance, which requires new development projects either to install publicly visible art as part of the project or contribute a percentage of the cost of the project for the Art in Public Places fund. The fund finances the acquisition of public art by the City in order to promote cultural and artistic outlets and to improve the environment, image and character of the community.

As part of their negotiated Development Agreement for the Bay Meadows project, Wilson Meany, the master developer, agreed to contribute a total of \$1 million for public art to be located within the development in order to fulfill their Art in Public Places requirement. Wilson Meany plans to locate a portion of public art in the Linear Park that is being constructed as part of the project. The Linear Park is similar to the previously constructed Paddock and Community parks in that it will be developed by Bay Meadows but dedicated as a public park. Any public art that is required by the Art in Public Places program and is located in a public park needs to be reviewed by both the Civic Arts Committee (CAC) and the Park and Recreation Commission before being presented to the City Council for final review and approval.

The CAC has had a long-standing goal to obtain a work of art by San Mateo-born artist Charles Ginnever. Charles Ginnever is a world renowned artist who has had works exhibited throughout the United States and Europe and is included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford. Members of the CAC encouraged Wilson Meany to obtain the “San Mateo Bridge” work for the Bay Meadows project. Images of the “San Mateo Bridge” work are included as **Attachment 3** of this report. A biography of Charles Ginnever is included as **Attachment 4**.

Wilson Meany presented a proposal to the CAC at their March 10, 2014 meeting to purchase “San Mateo Bridge” and to locate it in the turf area of Linear Park. The proposed location of the

work is shown in **Attachment 5**. The CAC made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of the work and to forward it to the Park and Recreation Commission for review.

Following that meeting, staff from Parks and Recreation identified some concerns about the proposed placement of the piece in Linear Park related to maintaining turf areas surrounding the sculpture and discouraging children from climbing on the sculpture. The Civic Arts Committee and Wilson Meany evaluated several landscaping alternatives at their April 14, 2014 and May 12, 2014 meetings. The final landscaping proposal addresses these concerns by locating the sculpture at the edge of lawn area and surrounding it with groundcover that serves the dual purpose of providing a no-mow buffer around the sculpture and discourages people from climbing on it. The final placement and orientation of the sculpture will need to be done in the field; however, the goal is to place it as far south as possible while still providing safe access and clearance around the sculpture. Staff supports the installation of the sculpture in Linear Park provided that these landscaping mitigations are implemented.

BUDGET IMPACT

Wilson Meany will be responsible for the cost to acquire and install the art work. In addition, Wilson Meany will be required to maintain the sculpture in case of damage or vandalism.

NOTICE PROVIDED

Regular Commission notification process. A copy of this report was provided to the members of the Civic Arts Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1- 2007 Design Development Plans for Linear Park
- Attachment 2- Revised Design Development Plan for Linear Park-Bocce Court
- Attachment 3- Image of "San Mateo Bridge"
- Attachment 4 - Charles Ginnever Biography
- Attachment 5 - Revised Design Development Plan for Linear Park-Sculpture Placement

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