

APPROVED
JUN 18 2015

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 15-130

DATE June 18, 2015

BOARD OF RECREATION

C.D. 3

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: OLD FIRE STATION 84 POCKET PARK – APPROVAL OF FORMAL NAMING AS COSTANSO FIRE STATION 84 PARK

<i>for</i> R. Adams _____	V. Israel _____
*R. Barajas <i>C&D</i> _____	K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____	N. Williams _____

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved ✓ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

- Grant approval to formally name Old Fire Station 84 Pocket Park as “Costanso Fire Station 84 Park”; and,
- Authorize the installation of appropriate park signage.

SUMMARY:

Old Fire Station 84 Pocket Park is one of the 50 Parks Initiative new parks. This pocket park is approximately 0.34 acres in size and is located at 5340 Canoga Avenue in the Canoga Park Neighborhood at the intersection of Canoga Avenue and Costanso Street. The Board accepted the transfer of this property via Report No. 14-067, on March 19, 2014 and at the same time approved recommendation number three which states, “Declare that upon approval of said transfer by City Council and completion of the jurisdictional transfer, the site be set apart and dedicated as park property in perpetuity, to be known until formally named, as the "Old Fire Station 84 Pocket Park"

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) worked closely with the Council Office on the design of this pocket park. After an extensive community outreach program, including a design charrette, it was determined that components of the park would include a fire station themed play area including a gaming/Wi-Fi zone, picnic tables, turf areas, drought tolerant landscaping, trees, and shade structures. Though the park had been named administratively Old Fire Station 84 Pocket Park

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2 NO. 15-130

in keeping with Department policy, the community expressed interest in participating in a park-naming process. Therefore, as part of the Park development process, the Council Office hosted an online survey regarding the naming of the new park and, in response to community input, have requested that this new pocket park be formally named 'Costanso Fire Station 84 Park.' Please see the attached letter of request from the Councilmember attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Per the Councilmember, "The 'Costanso Fire Station 84 Park' honors both the geography and history of the park. It embodies the goals of the majority of respondents to my survey – to honor the previous use as a fire station and to maintain a sense of place."

Staff has evaluated the proposed naming and finds it to be in compliance with the Board adopted Naming Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for Parks and Recreational Facilities as the name Costanso Fire Station 84 Park is neutral in connotation and is representative of both the surrounding neighborhood and the history of the park site.

RAP's management and staff are in support with the recommendations. This proposal was reviewed by the Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force at the May 6, 2015 meeting at which time it was recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the full Commission for consideration.

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

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There shall be no fiscal impact to the Department for the naming of this park as the park signage will be paid for through previously approved construction funds.

This report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.



EXHIBIT A

BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

September 23, 2014

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
221 N Figueroa Street, Suite 1510
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Commissioners:

Last year, I conducted an extensive outreach effort to determine the future of the former Fire Station 84 site at the corner of Canoga Avenue and Costanso Street. Hundreds of people gave feedback, both from mailed and online surveys as well as in person. Dozens of community volunteers joined me and my staff for a series of neighborhood canvasses that involved door knocking and tabling at a local grocery store. There was overwhelming support to convert the property into a parklet.

Following this important community decision, I hosted a design charrette to allow the community to work collaboratively with the City to mold and shape the plans for the future park and to hear and address issues and concerns. Now, with construction well underway, it was fitting to continue to hear from the community with suggestions for naming the new park.

My online survey asking for park name suggestions generated more than 50 responses. I am putting forward the name "Costanso Fire Station 84 Park" based on a suggestion from a local resident. The "Costanso Fire Station 84 Park" honors both the geography and history of the park. It embodies the goals of the majority of respondents to my survey—to honor the previous use as a fire station and to maintain a sense of place.



BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

Thank you for your time and consideration of naming the site at the corner of Canoga Avenue and Costanzo Street to "Costanzo Fire Station 84 Park". If you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff, Lisa Hansen, at (213) 473-7003. I look forward to your support during this exciting process.

Sincerely,

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles

Cc: Michael Shull, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks
Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Department of Recreation and Parks
Cathie Santo Domingo, Civil Engineer, Department of Recreation and Parks
Craig Raines, Landscape Architect Associate III, Department of Recreation and Parks
Ramon Barajas, Superintendent, Department of Recreation and Parks
Sonia Robinson, Executive Assistant, Department of Recreation and Parks
Judith Kieffer, LA Parks Foundation