

CITY OF LONG BEACH

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

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December 7, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association for the Recreation Park Historic Bandshell Arbors (District 3)

DISCUSSION

The Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association (Association) was created in 1998 to preserve the heritage and historic sites of Long Beach, recognize the contributions of the Long Beach Naval Station and Shipyard, and honor the work of architect Paul Revere Williams. The Association has announced the availability of grants for qualified historic preservation projects in Long Beach. Priority will be given to projects that have a local, state or national historic designation, provide a public benefit through visibility and accessibility, and are within the city limits.

Recently, the City of Long Beach, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, was invited to submit a grant application in the amount of \$15,000 for the planning phase of the reconstruction of the Recreation Park Historic Bandshell Arbors project. The decorative wooden arbors once flanked the Recreation Park bandshell and supported colorful vines. Over the years, the wooden arbors rotted and were removed several years ago for safety reasons. The total planning phase for the project is expected to cost \$20,000, with \$5,000 committed by the City. Planning costs include selection of an architect to oversee necessary research and preparation of design documents.

The Recreation Park bandshell was and continues to be the location of numerous public events, reflecting many elements of the cultural, social, and political history of Long Beach. The Spanish Baroque Revival style used for the bandshell and arbors, which was popular in the early 1920's, appears rarely in Long Beach, as this is the only public building in that style. The style was launched by the eminent architect Bertram Goodhue in buildings designed for the Panama-California Exposition of 1915 in San Diego and became popular throughout southern California. The rich plasterwork, the elaborate curvilinear design of the central arch, the broad border of colorful Malibu tile, the stucco walls, red tile roof, and arbors are all features of this style.

The richly ornamented historic architectural style of the bandshell structure, plus the multifaceted community historical significance of the building, more than amply constitutes qualifications for designation as a city landmark, which was granted in 1991.

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The bandshell and arbors have been identified as an important historic resource, and once the Recreation Park bandshell building and arbors are restored, the site may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Should funding for the planning phase be awarded, it is expected that the City will return to the Association, along with other agencies, for future funding for the reconstruction of the Recreation Park historic bandshell arbors.

This letter was reviewed by Donna F. Gwin, Senior Deputy City Attorney, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on November 23, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is requested on December 7, 2004 to allow for the submission of the grant applications by the December 9, 2004 deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT

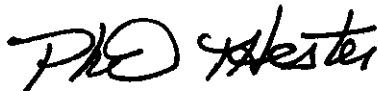
The total planning phase cost for the Recreation Park Historic Bandshell Arbors project is estimated at \$20,000. If funded, the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association grant monies will offset \$15,000 of the project cost. The remaining \$5,000 will be funded with Park Impact Fees to be appropriated in the FY 05 Capital Improvement Program budget. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Upon notification of the grant award, the City Council will be requested to accept the funds and authorize an increase in appropriations. Grant notification is expected by March 2005.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount of \$15,000 to the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association for the planning phase of the reconstruction of the Recreation Park Historic Bandshell Arbors project; and to execute any documents necessary for the implementation and administration of the project at a total cost of \$20,000 (including \$5,000 of City funds from Park Impact Fees).

Respectfully submitted,



PHIL T. HESTER
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

PTH:DE:LH

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER