



**Date:** January 4, 2011  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Councilman Dee Andrews, Chair, Housing and Neighborhoods Committee  
**Subject:** **CHERRY GROVE AT WHALEY PARK**

---

The Housing and Neighborhoods Committee, at its meeting held December 14, 2010, considered communications relative to the above subject.

It is the recommendation of the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee to the City Council that the portion of Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted, be named "Cherry Tree Peach Grove," and include a recognition of Soka Gokkai International Long Beach's 50 years of working in the communities.

Respectfully submitted,

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

---

Councilman Dee Andrews, Chair

Prepared by:  
Gloria Harper



**Date:** December 14, 2010

**To:** Members of the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee

**From:** Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

**Subject:** Recommendation that the portion of Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted, be named "Cherry Tree Peace Grove," and include a recognition of Soka Gokkai International Long Beach's 50 years of working in communities

---

DISCUSSION

On May 15, 2010, volunteers with the Soka Gokkai International (SGI) Long Beach organization planted a cherry tree grove at a portion of Whaley Park.

SGI Long Beach is a lay Buddhist organization, part of a worldwide network, which is dedicated to "a vision of a better world through the empowerment of the individual and the promotion of peace, culture and education." The network includes 84 constituent organizations and 12 million members in 192 countries and territories. SGI Long Beach participates and volunteers at numerous events throughout our city.

On September 21, 2010, Fourth District Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell sent a memo (Attachment A) to the Mayor and Members of the City Council requesting that a portion of Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted (Attachment B site map), be named "Cherry Tree Peace Grove."

Pursuant to Administrative Regulation (AR) 8 – 7, the City Council referred the request to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee.

The Parks and Recreation Commission considered this request at their October 21, 2010 meeting (Attachment C), unanimously approved this request, and are forwarding their recommendation to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee for adoption.

The Administrative Regulations AR 8 – 7 applies to the naming of all public land, buildings and facilities. AR 8 – 7 provides several policies to guide the consideration of a naming request. The following are those policies:

- The name should incorporate Long Beach whenever important for civic recognition or identification;
- A name in honor of a recognized geographic area, a topographic feature or a historically significant event may be appropriate;
- A name in honor of persons or families who have donated the land or a substantial portion of the improvement costs may be appropriate when applicable;

- A name in honor of a person or persons who have served the nation, the State of California, and/or the City of Long Beach in an exceptional or distinguished manner may be appropriate if warranted by service of major significance;
- A name in honor of a living person, or of a deceased person within one year of their death, is not appropriate, unless the significance of that person's contribution is worthy of an exception to the policy;
- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate when a name in honor of another person has been given to the same site, building or facility in the past;
- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate if that person has been overly recognized in the past; and,
- A name may be selected through a competition or a contest.

Members of SGI Long Beach have respectfully requested that the portion of Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted be named in recognition of their organization and its mission. The organization has requested that the grove be named "Cherry Tree Peace Grove" and include a recognition of SGI Long Beach's 50 years of working in communities.

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is not time critical.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with the recommended action.

#### IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMITTEE:

Concur with the recommendation that the PORTION OF Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted, be named "Cherry Tree Peace Grove," and include a recognition of SGI Long Beach's 50 years of working in communities.

PTH:rb  
C:\MYDOCUMENTS\COUNCIL\HNC CHERRY TREE PEACE GROVE.DOC  
Attachments

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE



2760 N. Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815-1697  
(562) 570-3100 • FAX (562) 570-3109

www.LBParks.org

selected  
**best in the nation**

Attachment C

October 21, 2010

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the Housing and Neighborhood Committee, and the full City Council, that the portion of Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted, be named "Cherry Tree Peace Grove," and include a recognition of SGI Long Beach's 50 years of working in communities.

## DISCUSSION

On September 21, 2010, Fourth District City Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell sent a memo (Attachment A) to the Mayor and Members of the City Council requesting that a portion of Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted (Attachment B site map), be named "Cherry Tree Peace Grove." The Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation will be transmitted to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council.

The Administrative Regulations AR 8-7 applies to the naming of all public land, buildings and facilities. AR 8-7 provides several policies to guide the consideration of a naming request. The following are those policies:

- The name should incorporate Long Beach whenever important for civic recognition or identification;
- A name in honor of a recognized geographic area, a topographic feature or a historically significant event may be appropriate;
- A name in honor of persons or families who have donated the land or a substantial portion of the improvement costs may be appropriate when applicable;
- A name in honor of a person or persons who have served the nation, the State of California, and/or the City of Long Beach in an exceptional or distinguished manner may be appropriate if warranted by service of major significance;
- A name in honor of a living person, or of a deceased person within one year of their death, is not appropriate unless the significance of that person's contribution is worthy of an exception to the policy;

*"We create community and enhance the quality of life through people, places, programs and partnerships"*

- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate when a name in honor of another person has been given to the same site, building or facility in the past;
- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate if that person has been overly recognized in the past; and,
- A name may be selected through a competition or a contest.

On May 15, 2010, volunteers with the Soka Gokkai International (SGI) Long Beach organization planted a cherry tree grove at a portion of Whaley Park.

SGI Long Beach is a lay Buddhist organization, part of a worldwide network, which is dedicated to "a vision of better world through the empowerment of the individual and the promotion of peace, culture and education." The network includes 84 constituent organizations and 12 million members in 192 countries and territories. SGI Long Beach participates and volunteers at numerous events throughout our city.

Members of SGI Long Beach have respectfully requested that the portion of Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted be named in recognition of their organization and its mission. The organization has requested that the grove be named "Cherry Tree Peace Grove" and include a recognition of SGI Long Beach's 50 years of working in communities.


**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



JC SQUIRES  
MANAGER  
BUSINESS OPERATIONS



RAMON AREVALO  
MANAGER  
MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

APPROVED:



PHIL T. HESTER  
DIRECTOR




**City of Long Beach**  
*Working Together to Serve*

*Memorandum  
Councilmember  
Patrick O'Donnell  
4<sup>th</sup> District*

**Date:** September 21, 2010

Attachment A

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District 

**Subject:** **Cherry Grove at Whaley Park**

---

On May 15, 2010, volunteers with the Soka Gokkai International (SGI) Long Beach organization planted a cherry tree grove at a portion of Whaley Park.

SGI Long Beach is a lay Buddhist organization. It is part of a worldwide network, which is dedicated to "a vision of a better world through the empowerment of the individual and the promotion of peace, culture and education." The network includes 84 constituent organizations and 12 million members in 192 countries and territories. SGI Long Beach participates and volunteers at numerous events throughout our City.

Members of SGI have respectfully requested that the portion of Whaley Park in which the cherry tree grove was planted be named in recognition of their organization and its mission. The organization has requested that the grove be named "Cherry Tree Peace Grove" and include a recognition of SGI Long Beach's fifty years working in communities.

**Recommendation:**

**Request that the City Council refer the naming of a portion of Whaley Park "Cherry Tree Peace Grove" to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission.**

**TO: HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE**  
**FROM: SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL "SGI", LONG BEACH BRANCH**

Thank you for your consideration of the naming of the trees we planted in Whaley Park as the Cherry Tree Peace Grove and of the proposed dedication plaque commemorating 50 years in the United States with our president and mentor, Daisaku Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko Ikeda.

As a way of presenting Daisaku Ikeda and his accomplishments, we have prepared the following short biography.

*As a young boy growing up in war time Japan, Daisaku Ikeda saw first hand the ravages of war. Through his studies, he searched for an explanation for human suffering and tried to reconcile the nationalistic glorification of war with the resultant devastation and unhappiness of the people. In 1947 he encountered the life philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism. The teachings answered his questions and provided the basis from which he set about his mission of constructing a happy, peaceful society.*

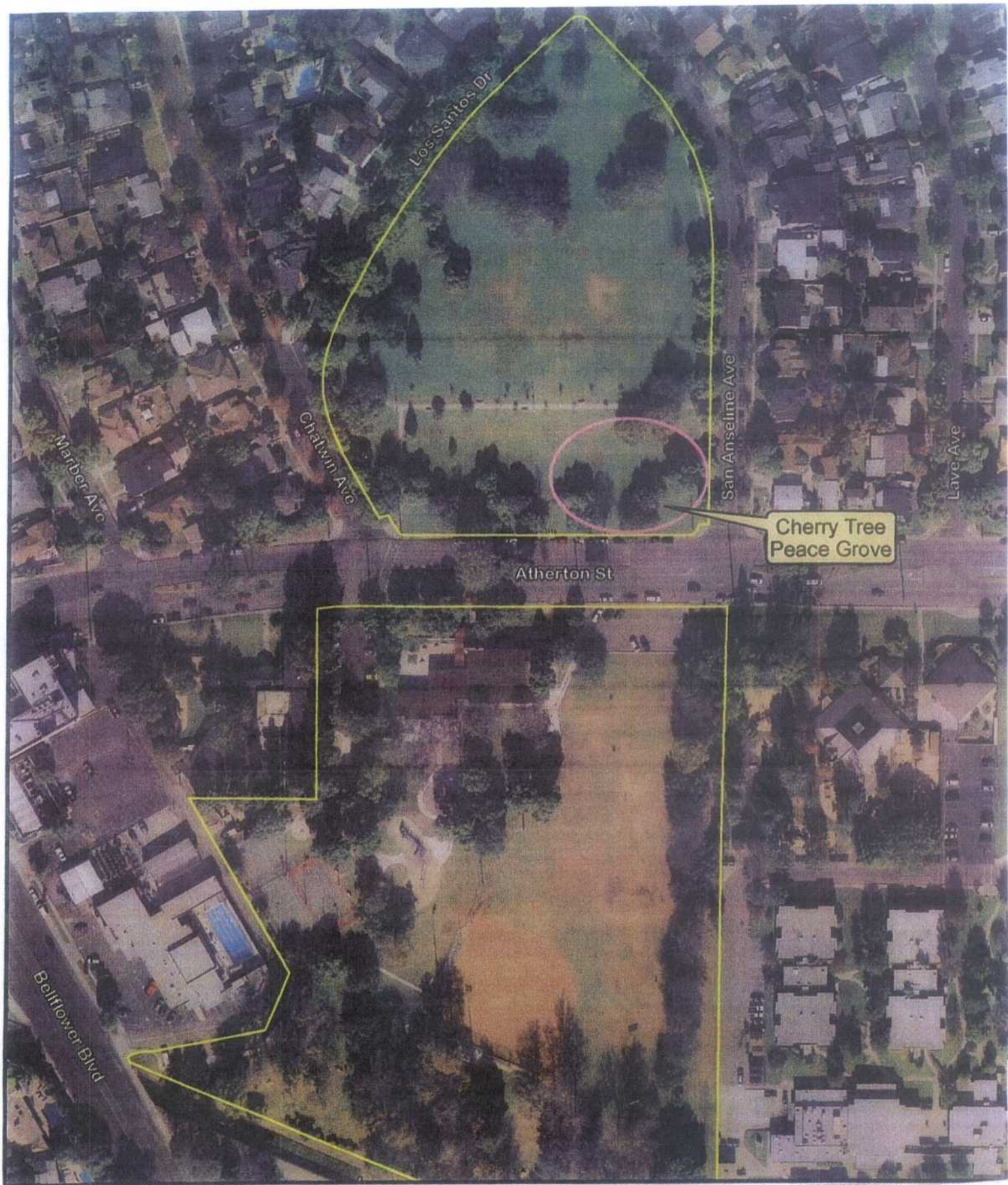
*Since then Dr. Ikeda has worked tirelessly to promote global humanism of friendship and trust among diverse peoples. Through his contributions to peace, cultural exchange and education, he has received 300 academic honors, including the award "Philosopher, Educator and Humanist" from California State University, Long Beach.*

*Mr. Ikeda is founding president of Soka Gakkai International, which encompasses 12 million Buddhist practitioners in 192 countries and territories. He is also founder of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, the Min-On Concert Association, the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, the Soka schools system, including Soka University in Aliso Viejo, the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research and the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning and Dialogue.*

*He has authored numerous works on Buddhist philosophy as well as published more than 50 dialogues with leading thinkers from around the world.*

We, the Long Beach members of SGI, consider the cherry tree grove in Whaley Park as an expression of carrying out our mission of peace, culture and education. The park fosters friendship and community goodwill. The grove is open to all, and we hope that everyone can enjoy it, and appreciate its beauty and the spirit in which it was created.





Cherry Tree  
Peace Grove



# Whaley Park Proposed Cherry Tree Peace Grove

Attachment B

0 50 100 150 Feet