

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
SUBJECT: JUILLIARD PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT CHURCH
OF ONE TREE SITE ADDING A FENCE
STAFF PRESENTER: KELLEY MAGNUSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

ISSUE(S)

Should the Council approve the Juilliard Park Master Plan Amendment, adding a fence to enclose the Church of One Tree?



COUNCIL GOALS/STRATEGIES

Maintain and enhance our City's Cultural, Historical, and Recreational Assets (facilities, programs, parks, etc.).

BACKGROUND

1. The Recreation and Parks Department desires to increase use of the Church of One Tree and protect the building.
2. The Church of One Tree was moved to its present location next to Juilliard Park in 1957. It is unclear why the building was placed on the site with the front facing the park instead of facing Sonoma Avenue. In 1970, the building began use as the Ripley Memorial Museum, and housed "Believe It or Not" memorabilia. In April 1998 the Ripley Museum officially closed.
3. While the Church of One Tree is not located within a Preservation District, the structure was designated as a Landmark by the City Council on January 13, 1998.
4. Juilliard Park is a 9-acre park located in the downtown area between Santa Rosa Avenue and A Street. The original Master Plan for the park was created in 1932, and is a hand-drawn vision for the park, characterized by broad, open stretches of lawn bordered by trees to effectively screen the visible evidences of the surrounding city. City Council approved a Park Master Plan amendment on

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February 11, 2014 to add bocce courts and the community garden (Attachment 1).

5. In July 2006, the Recreation and Parks Department began the process of improving the Church of One Tree. On September 19, 2007 the Cultural Heritage Board approved a Landmark Alteration Permit to reconstruct the existing wheelchair ramp, stairs, handrail and landing in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
6. In 2011, based on goals to increase use and generate revenue, the Recreation and Parks Department began marketing the Church of One Tree as a venue for weddings, events and community programs. However, there have been ongoing issues that have limited the successful use of the building. When the facility is being considered by prospective customers, staff and clients encounter drug paraphernalia, human feces and intoxicated persons at the entryways. Uninvited persons enter during private events and create disruptions. Other ongoing issues have included vandalism, graffiti, and illegal encampments, which have made it difficult for the Recreation and Parks Department to rent or program the building.
7. In 2012, the Recreation & Parks Department enlisted the help of the Police Department to address some of the safety and security issues at the Church of One Tree. Additional patrols were assigned but with little improvement. In May 2013, Officer Jones was assigned to work directly with the Recreation & Parks Department to address the issues, and in July 2013, he recommended a fence because the public access to Juilliard Park through the Church site made enforcement difficult. In December 2013 staff from the City Attorney's Office, Police and Recreation & Parks met to discuss ongoing problems and enforcement issues. Subsequently, staff removed several benches in Juilliard Park near the Church and added no smoking signage. In April 2014, Police and Recreation & Parks held a meeting to discuss ongoing problems at the Church and Park, and shared the fence proposal with the attending neighbors. In July 2014, Lieutenant Navarro provided a letter supporting a fence to enclose the Church of One Tree.

ANALYSIS

1. Staff propose the installation of a decorative steel fence to increase use, protect the building, and enable the Department to provide a safe and clean environment for customers. The fence would be installed on the south side within Juilliard Park and on the north side on the Church of One Tree site (wood fences on the east and west side already exists). The location of the steel fence to the south of the Church within Juilliard Park was chosen to include some of the redwood trees within the protected area. Entry gates would generally be locked when the building is not in use, and would be unlocked when permitted

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public events are taking place in Juilliard Park. See Attachment 2 for the proposed Master Plan amendment.

2. The fence proposal went before the Board of Community Services (BOCS) on July 23, 2014 for review. Prior to the BOCS meeting, the Community Development Department mailed approximately 370 notices regarding the fences to addresses within the vicinity of the Church of One Tree and Juilliard Park. The notice advised neighbors about the fence proposal, its impact on Juilliard Park access, and the date of the BOCS public meeting. The BOCS recommendation for approval was unanimous.
3. Staff submitted the fence design for review by the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB), and the meeting was held on September 3, 2014. During the CHB meeting it became evident that formal adoption by City Council of a master plan amendment to approve the fence in Juilliard Park and approve the fence on the Church site was also needed. The respective roles of the Board of Community Services and the Cultural Heritage Board are: the Board of Community Services advises City Council on recreational facilities and programs and how to make them more effective, and the Cultural Heritage Board reviews designs to ensure consistency with architecture. The CHB continued the agenda item to November 5, 2014.
4. The design of the fence went before the CHB again on November 5, 2014 and the CHB approved the submitted design with conditions; that the decorative steel fence be 6 feet in height, that any extension in height in the existing wood fences not exceed 8 foot in height and subject to City Council approval of the master plan amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Department of Recreation and Parks that the Council, by resolution, approve the Juilliard Park Master Plan Amendment, adding a fence to enclose the Church of One Tree.

Author: Kelley Magnuson, Deputy Director, Recreation

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – February 2014 Juilliard Park Master Plan
- Attachment 2 – Proposed October 2014 Amended Juilliard Park Master Plan