

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
STAFF MEMO FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD
April 17, 2024

PROJECT TITLE

Fremont Neighborhood Park

PROPERTY OWNER

City of Santa Rosa

ADDRESS/LOCATION

844 4th Street

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER

009-054-011

SITE ZONING

CG (General Commercial)

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION

Parks and Recreation

PROJECT PLANNER

Scott Wilkinson

RECOMMENDATION

Review the Historic Resources Study completed for Fremont Park and provide input on the opportunities and priorities for updating the Master Plan for the park.

PROPOSAL

During its meeting of May 4, 2022, the Cultural Heritage Board (Board) discussed the merits of recommending Fremont Park, or specific park features be considered for designation as a Landmark, or whether it would be appropriate to include a commemorative plaque in the park redesign.

As noted in the May 4 staff memo, [Zoning Code Section 20-58.050](#) provides a process to initiate a landmark designation, which is accomplished through a Rezoning. The CHB may, by resolution, initiate a Rezoning to designate a landmark. Where the initiation is done by the CHB, the Planning and Economic Development Department would collect and compile the data and information that otherwise would have been required with an application.

In addition to documents required by the Rezoning checklist, landmark designation would also require a historic analysis prepared by a qualified professional. The Recreation and Parks Dept. commissioned MIG Inc., with expertise in historic landscape evaluation to prepare a Historic Resources Study (HRS). The HRS report aimed to evaluate the historical significance of Fremont Park. It was completed in October of 2023 and is attached herein for review by the Board.

In addition to evaluating the historical significance of the park site, the report also provides high-level recommendations for treatment approaches and design under Rehabilitation guidelines established by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process

making possible a compatible use for a site through repair, alterations, and additions while retaining its essential historical character.

Recreation and Parks seeks to apply the standards for Rehabilitation and re-engage with the public to create a redesigned Master Plan for the park that reflects the original designer, Howard Gilkey's Beaux-arts inspired design concept, by retaining or reinterpreting most of the park's character defining features while promoting safety and activating the park for modern use with the addition of active features such as a play area and contemporary site furnishings.

The Board will be limited in its discussion with a goal of providing comment and input related to the historic analysis and the treatment recommendations in the report, and opportunities for redesign expanded upon in the presentation by the Recreation and Parks Department's design consultant, Meyer Studio Landscape Architects.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Historic Resource Study for Fremont Park

Attachment 2: Presentation slide document