

CITY OF NAPA CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT

ADMIN CALENDAR
AGENDA ITEM 5.A.
Date: May 21, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Jacques R. LaRochelle, Public Works Director

Prepared by: Mark Tomko, Senior Civil Engineer

Subject: 911 Memorial Garden Project Update

ISSUE STATEMENT:

Update on the progress of the 911 Memorial Garden Project.

DISCUSSION:

In September 2009, the City received a notice from the September 11th Families' Association indicating that the Port Authority was accepting requests from organizations to obtain portions of the World Trade Center steel for the purpose of creating public memorials across the country. This prompted City staff to contact local business owners in order to gauge the level of interest in providing volunteer services in support of a potential September 11 memorial project. Staff learned that there was broad and enthusiastic community support behind the creation of a local public memorial to honor the memory of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. That community interest allowed Napa to obtain six artifact steel pieces and start a community project that melded City and community resources in order to move the project forward.

On December 7, 2010, City Council directed staff to initiate the project and move forward on design details and implementation of the project. Based on Council direction, staff worked with community volunteers which ultimately turned into the formation of the "Napa September 11 Coalition" (9/11 Coalition) lead by Napa resident Jim Asbury. The Coalition is comprised of volunteers throughout the community and includes architects, engineers, project managers, contractors, logistic specialists, and other community members necessary to complete the project. City staff from Public Works, Fire, Community Development, Parks and Recreation, City Attorney's and City Manager's office have worked together with the Coalition to move this project forward.

On February 15, 2011, City Council selected a City-owned park site adjacent to Napa Creek west of Main Street for the September 11 Memorial. The site has access and visibility, is located along a prominent section of Main Street, and is connected to key pedestrian linkages along Brown Street. The proximity to the Napa Creek provides a tranquil setting and fits in with the reflective nature of the project design intent.

The project design is anchored by a sculpture that will place four steel beam artifacts vertically in a pattern encircled by a low stone wall. Glass panels containing the names of the victims and details of the project and how it came to Napa will be attached to the beams. The steel will remain in its natural form, and be situated in a manner that will allow people to touch and walk through the steel. Earthen embankments behind the stone seat wall will help to create a sense of space within a relatively flat area. From Main Street, a concrete pathway will break into two paths – one toward the memorial space and another with direct connection to Brown Street and Dwight Murray Plaza. The site will be landscaped and include numerous new trees. A portion of the site adjacent to Napa Creek will remain open, providing a view corridor over the creek and Main Street Bridge to the hills along east Napa. The space will create a gathering place along the Downtown pedestrian trail system and the proposed park improvements and memorial will provide for a place of reflection, learning, healing, and inspiration for Napa and visitors to our community.

Construction on the project began in April of this year. The site has been demolished and cleared. Excavation has begun for all three concrete and steel foundations that will hold the art pieces. The steel pieces are currently being worked on to add steel plates to the bottom of each piece to allow anchorage to the foundations. Once the foundations are complete, work will begin on the various underground utilities needed to serve this project – electrical, storm drain and irrigation. It is anticipated that the steel pieces and glass panels will be in place by the end of June. This will be followed by concrete flat work and landscaping which is expected to be completed by August.

To date, the 9/11 Coalition is continuing to raise funds for this project. The City has contributed \$120,000 to the project already from its Public Art Fund. These funds helped pay for the manufacture of the glass panels and the steel fabrication. Additional funds are still needed in the amount of approximately \$35,000 to complete the entire project. That is above and beyond what staff is anticipating to be donated in the way of materials (i.e. concrete, pipe, wire, etc.) and labor and equipment. The 9/11 Coalition has mobilized and is actively approaching the community in an effort to obtain other donations.

The project provides an exciting opportunity for Napa to both honor the victims of the September 11, 2001, tragedy and re-affirm the commitment of Napa's residents to the community by creating a well-designed memorial. The partnership with the City of Napa and the Napa 9/11 Coalition has been the driving force behind the project and all aspects of the project are being completed in good faith to serve as a model for future projects of this nature.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

The project is being funded by the City's Public Art Fund and donations. In addition, there is donated labor by several area contractors. City staff time is being absorbed into individual division budgets.

CEQA:

The project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c), modifying an existing park area into the 911 Memorial Garden.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. Attachment 1: 911 Memorial Garden Plan

NOTIFICATION:

None.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No formal action necessary.

None.