



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

17-0917

Agenda Date: 2/16/2018

2018 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 17-05

TITLE Orchard Heritage Park and Heritage Park Museum - Analysis and Options for the Long-Term Operations and Maintenance of Orchard Heritage Park and Review of the Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association Proposed Expansion of the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum Site

BACKGROUND

Lead: Public Works
Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney
Sponsor(s): City Manager
History: 1 year ago: Ranked Below the Line
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

In 2015, Council approved Study Issue DPW 15-10, which analyzed the potential of relocating the Butcher House to Orchard Heritage Park. On April 5, 2016, staff presented Council with three alternatives which included locating the Butcher House within the orchard, locating the Butcher House to the lawn area across from the museum, or not relocating the Butcher House (RTC 16-0182 Attached). Council discussed the alternatives and members of the public spoke regarding the various options. Representatives of the museum also spoke and clarified that they would only proceed with moving the Butcher House if it was relocated to their preferred location in the orchard. A motion to relocate the Butcher House within the orchard (the location preferred by the Historical Society) failed on a 3-3 vote.

Since the Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association (SHSMA) indicated they would not support moving the Butcher House to the lawn area across from the museum, Council requested staff to meet with them and see if any other options were available to relocate the Butcher House to Orchard Heritage Park without removing any apricot trees. Staff held a meeting with the SHSMA on May 3, 2016, and the SHSMA reiterated they did not support moving the Butcher House anywhere else except for in the orchard because it does not align with their vision of expanding the museum grounds to Michelangelo Drive. On July 26, 2016, the City Council rescinded its previous Council action and took action to not relocate the Butcher House.

On multiple occasions Council also expressed concern and interest regarding the long-term viability of the orchard, and the development of a plan for future operations and maintenance. It would be most appropriate to combine both these items into one study, as each decision would affect the other.

What are the key elements of the study?Orchard Operations and Maintenance

The Council has expressed interest in analyzing options for the future operations and maintenance of the Orchard. The Orchard is currently maintained by volunteer work and no long-term operational plan has been developed.

Expansion of the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum Site

The SHSMA expressed interest in exploring the possibility of expanding the museum grounds at Orchard Heritage Park further east to Michelangelo Drive. The purpose of the expansion would be to accommodate additional items such as exhibits, historical structures, a windmill and ultimately creating one cohesive location including the orchard. The expansion will require the removal of trees in the orchard.

Study

If approved, this study would engage the community, stakeholders, and current operators and volunteers to:

1. Identify long-term options for operating and maintaining the orchard.
2. Review concepts to expand the current Museum facility, including the identification of boundary limits.

Staff would hire a consultant to develop multiple site plan concepts, identify utility needs, review CEQA, assess potential costs, and complete a community engagement process.

Estimated years to complete study: 2 years

FISCAL IMPACT**Cost to Conduct Study**

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Major
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$350,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement

The cost is for consultant services that are necessary to complete the work effort. The consultant team will require many different levels of expertise including land use, engineering, environmental, economics, and community outreach. Staff would be responsible for managing the project, which includes developing a scope of work, hiring a consultant, managing the consultant, reviewing all work products, participating in all necessary public outreach as well as presentations to commissions and City Council. There has been significant public feedback with regards to the orchard and museum and staff anticipates that this effort will require a community engagement process beyond what is required for a typical Study Issue.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue/savings.

EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Parks and Recreation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Defer. This policy issue merits discussion at a future Study Issues Workshop.

In 2016, there was a significant amount of discussion regarding the orchard and museum. However, at this time the immediate improvements that the Council prioritized are underway and overall the orchard and museum are both functioning as envisioned. The orchard continues to be well maintained and is an asset to the City. The museum is also a City asset, and staff is moving forward with relocating the City maintenance facility and constructing permanent improvements to further enhance the site. The development of an overall vision and a plan for future operations and maintenance may provide benefits to guide future decisions and staff recommends considering this policy issue at a future Study Issues Workshop.

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Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Interim Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, Interim City Manager

ATTACHMENT(S)

Report to Council 16-0182