



Agenda Item C.1
DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM
Meeting Date: December 5, 2018

TO: Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Vyto Adomaitis, Neighborhood Services & Public Safety Director

CONTACT: JoAnne Plummer, Parks & Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park Handball Wall Mural Discussion

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Receive information on a possible mural to be placed on the west side of the handball wall at Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park and provide a recommendation to City Council; or
- B. Take no action, retaining the wall as colored stucco with no additions.

BACKGROUND:

The new park in Old Town, the Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park, is currently under construction and is on schedule to open in March of 2019. The park has numerous amenities, which include a skate plaza, playground, picnic area, athletic field, athletic courts, fitness equipment, passive recreation opportunities and a handball wall. The handball wall is 16 feet high and 20 feet wide, has a stucco finish and can be seen from the street and adjacent properties. The construction plans had called for trees to be planted next to the wall to mask the visual impacts of a large wall space. Unfortunately, the required safety footings for this wall will not accommodate the root growth for the proposed trees.

DISCUSSION:

The new park is located at 170 South Kellogg Avenue and the back of the handball wall faces Kellogg Avenue and the Villa La Esperanza Apartments. A natural color was chosen for the stucco on the wall, which was intended as a nice backdrop to the proposed planted trees. The concrete footings for the handball wall are extensive and if trees are planted in this area, there is little chance for successful growth. The architect was able to identify an alternate location for the trees, which will add to the aesthetic value of the park but does not address the handball wall. The project team has explored a variety of options for this area, and the recommendations continue to come back to the consideration of a mural.

The addition of a message board at the lower portion of the wall to allow for the City of Goleta to post public and meeting notices for residents is also currently under consideration. Adding the proposed message board to this area, still leaves the upper portion of the wall available for a potential mural.

A mural at the top of the handball wall could create a public art opportunity in Old Town but can also be an arduous task. The following would need to be considered for the City to move forward with consideration of a mural: subject matter, materials, time frame, and fiscal impacts for development, maintenance and repairs. These can be determined through a competition, a call for artists, a committee or another means.

Tonight, the Commission is being asked to consider and discuss options for the upper portion of the backside of the handball wall. If the Commission would like to consider anything other than leaving it as stucco, a recommendation would need to be carried forward to City Council by staff for further consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with the discussion. However, the addition of a mural for this area would cost between \$5,000 and \$25,000.



Vyto Adomaitis,
Neighborhood Services
& Public Safety Director