

## **McKinley Park Rose Garden Master Plan Meeting #2 Notes**

Date: June 20, 2009

Location: McKinley Park Rose Garden

### **Existing Conditions**

The existing rose garden has not been upgraded or improved for several decades except for the rose arbors, which were replaced with new arbors a few years ago. The existing irrigation system is outdated and inefficient, and recently a water line break flooded the entire rose garden. The existing irrigation system sprays both the turf and the roses, causing mildew and black spot. The rose garden is not accessible to persons with disabilities; there is no wheelchair access, signage or parking. The existing benches and drinking fountain are not accessible. Many of the roses have either a virus which is evident in the health and vigor of the roses or have diseases which show in the leaves such as black spot and mildew, which is caused by not spraying pesticides and fungicides.

### **Historical Assessment**

A historical assessment was completed for the McKinley Rose Garden and a summary was reviewed (see separate document).

### **Master Plan** (see separate document)

The proposed rose garden master plan includes adding accessible walkways, an accessible rose garden map, and accessible benches with center arm rests and wheel chair spaces next to the benches. Two accessible vehicle parking spaces will be striped in the existing parking lot next to the Tiny Tot Center. A walkway and pavement in the center of the rose garden will be added to make the rose garden accessible year-round. The pavement type could be brick, concrete or a combination of the two. The rose garden will have a new entry sign with "Fredrick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden" to match the signs at the library and community center. A new irrigation system will be installed which spray irrigates the turf separately from flood bubbler irrigation of the rose beds. The rose bed curbs will be replaced with a raised curb, to allow flood irrigation of the rose garden.

The Sacramento Rose Society has proposed to replace the existing damaged and unhealthy roses at a time of year when it's best for the health of the roses.

### **Meeting Comments and Suggestions**

#### Plaques

- Keep dedication plaques with the roses in their specific plots. Donors would support funding for the upkeep of the plaques.

- Keep existing plaques in garden; any new plaques should only supplement existing memorials and fund raisers, and be grouped, rather than being with individual bushes.
- Donors would be willing to provide financial support if required, but like a memorial which is sentimental and a place to visit to remember the loved ones.
- Dedication plaques should remain, rose color or type can change.

#### Maintenance

- Recommend an experienced, trained rose expert to oversee the staff and volunteers who maintain the rose garden.
- Roses should be cared for properly with fertilizer, deep watering, and regular weeding.
- City should use more volunteers to maintain rose garden including 502 workers.

#### Improvements

- McKinley Rose Garden should be a modern display of roses; City cemetery is a classic rose garden display.
- Design new rose garden entry sign to match the brick and text style of "East Sacramento" sign and other signs at the library and community center.

#### Funding

- City should seek business donations for the rose garden improvements.
- Monitor 33<sup>rd</sup> Street for illegal parking and fund rose garden with parking ticket fees.
- Tapestry bricks for walkway with fund raising dedication bricks (names of donors imprinted). Train volunteers and park maintenance staff to maintain rose garden properly.
- Consider permitting food carts/vendors in the Park from which City/Park keeps some revenue.

NOTE: The City has not yet secured the necessary funding required to make the improvements proposed in the rose garden master plan nor to support specialized maintenance.

### **City Improvement Priorities and Estimated Costs**

First priority: Install a new irrigation system to spray the turf and to flood irrigate the rose beds, and restore turf. Make accessibility improvements including: accessible pathway, accessible signage, benches, vehicle and parking spaces and accessible drinking fountain. Estimated cost \$330,000

Future improvements: Replace rose bed curbs with raised curbs, replace damage and unhealthy roses in phases, and install new rose garden entry sign, replacement of all bench slats rose garden map. Estimate cost \$226,700.

### **Plaques**

The existing rose dedication plaques will remain, and the City will develop a way to recognize donors to the rose garden improvement project in the future.

### **Next Steps/Timeframes**

- Review by Parks and Recreation Commission Committee on Aug. 17, 2009.
- Review by Parks and Recreation Commission on Sept. 3, 2009.
- Master plan to City Council for approval in late October 2009. (An approved Master Plan will provide an important tool for fundraising efforts by the City, Rose Society and other interested parties.)
- No schedule has been developed for above physical improvement to the rose garden until project funding is secured.
- Schedule for Rose evaluation by Rose Society rep. and City rep. pending.
- Work with Council office and community to establish a "Friends of the Rose Garden" group to assist with support, including fundraising.

### **Donations and Volunteers**

- Cash donations for McKinley Park Rose Garden Improvements should be directed to the Sacramento Gifts to Share nonprofit, Attn: Lori Harder, at 808-5172.
- Volunteers for either maintenance or improvements in the Rose Garden should contact Julie Mier, Parks Volunteer Coordinator, at 808-2285.

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