

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR ACTION**

MEETING DATE: April 10, 2013
SUBMITTED TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
SUBMITTED BY: DAVID C. DOMINGUEZ, FACILITIES, DEVELOPMENT AND CONCESSIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: TRIANGLE PARK – MONUMENT SIGN

Statement of Issue: At the Request of the Historic Resources Board for a monument sign describing the history of Triangle Park, Commission will review and make recommendation on the proposed language for a monument sign to be placed in the park.

Funding Source: Based on Commission action, funding for the sign would come from sources other than City funds.

Recommended Action(s):

- 1) Approve the concept of a free standing monument plaque at Triangle Park, utilizing non-city funds, with the type and location to be determined by staff and the Historic Resources Board, and;
- 2) Review and make a recommendation to City Council for approval of the plaque language from the versions presented.

Alternative Action(s): Do not approve the concept of a free standing monument plaque at Triangle Park and direct staff on how to proceed.

Analysis: Based on a request from the Historic Resources Board (HRB), Commission referred the request for a custom park identification sign to include a monument plaque at Triangle Park to the Park Naming and Memorials Committee for review at the November 14, 2012 meeting. Subsequently, the Committee conducted a public meeting on December 6, 2012 to review the request and make recommendation to Commission.

Due to the amount of verbiage proposed for the sign and plaque, the Commission opted to treat the park identification sign and plaque separately. The Committee recommended that a standard park sign be installed at Triangle Park without a plaque attached and recommended the concept of placing a plaque explaining the history of the park as a separate monument sign. The Committee recommended the wording for the standard sign to be: "Triangle Park, Established 1912, Second Oldest Park in Huntington Beach." On January 9, 2013, Commission approved the recommended wording for the standard sign and the concept of a separate monument plaque. As part of their motion, Commission directed the Committee to reconvene to review the proposed plaque language.

On February 14, 2013 the Committee conducted another public meeting where the HRB presented revised wording for the plaque (Attachment 1). The wording was presented in a narrative format (Attachment 2), which differed from the style originally proposed at the December 6, 2012 meeting – which was more of a bullet point format (Attachment 3). In discussing the two formats, the Committee had concerns with the length of the narrative and whether all of the information provided in the bullet point format could be considered significant historical events. After much deliberation, the Committee opted to make amendments to the narrative version and made a recommendation that this version and the bullet point format be presented to Commission for review and approval. As part of their recommendation, the Committee also directed staff to work with the HRB to conduct additional research to ensure the accuracy of the sequencing of events and information provided.

Staff met with members of the HRB and went over various city records regarding the history of Triangle Park. Based on this research, the proposed information for the plaque is in line with historic summaries and records from City archives, including ordinances and past meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees (precursor to City Council) from the early 1900's.

While conducting the review, the HRB and staff further discussed the format of the plaque language. HRB felt strongly that the narrative format would be more effective in describing the history of Triangle Park. They presented a revised narrative that they would like Commission to consider (Attachment 4).

Staff and HRB also discussed the material and style for the plaque. HRB presented samples of historical signs used in the City of Butte Montana (Attachment 5). The signs are made of aluminum, which holds up better to the elements than bronze and provides for a better canvas for signs with considerable verbiage. Staff feels that this type and style of sign would be appropriate for the monument plaque at Triangle Park.

Considering that the same style of sign used by the City of Butte, Montana, staff is supportive of the use of a narrative format and the revised version proposed by HRB.

Environmental Status: N/A

Attachment(s):

	1.	Park Naming & Memorials Commission Meeting Summary February 14, 2013
	2.	Triangle Park Wording Submission February 14, 2013
	3.	Triangle Park Wording Submission December 6, 2013
	4.	Triangle Park Wording Submission April 10, 2013
	5.	Sample Historical Sign

RCA Author: **David Dominguez**



City of Huntington Beach
Community Services Commission

**PARK NAMING AND MEMORIALS COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

DRAFT

9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 14, 2013
Civic Center, Council Chambers
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Committee Members Present: Albert Gasparian; Roy Miller, Brian Rechsteiner
Committee Members Absent: Nick Tomaino (ex-officio)
Staff Present: David Dominguez; Mary Loadsman

Chair Rechsteiner called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments –

Barbara Haynes, Chair of the Historic Resources Board, spoke in support of the proposed wording for the Triangle Park Plaque. She commented the Historic Resources Board worked hard on the verbiage, noting the proposed language captures the history of the park.

Suzanne Hart, a resident living across from the park, spoke in support of the plaque language and noted that it provides a tool for parents to interact with their children to help understand the history of the park, as well as information for visitors to Huntington Beach.

Rosemary Robinson, a resident of Huntington Beach for 85 years, has many memories of activities at Triangle Park, including her father playing horseshoes, picnics and community activities. She supports having a plaque to recognize the area's historic value.

Gloria Alvarez, a member of the Historic Resources Board and HB Downtown Residents Association, spoke on behalf of Kathy Bryant, Historic Resource Board Member and Lewie Dorrego, a long time resident of Huntington Beach. She informed the Committee that HB Neighbors filed an application to the State of California to have the Main Street Library located on Triangle Park, listed on the National Historic Register. She stated the State has endorsed the application and has forwarded it to Washington D.C. for consideration. She asked that the final plaque language have the notation as "Listed on the National Historic Register in 2013" should the approval come forward before the plaque has been made.

Triangle Park Custom Monument Sign –

Miller asked how Alvarez and the Historic Resources Board envision what the sign would look like.

Alvarez provided a couple of corrections to the proposed wording submitted at the meeting (Attachment 1). In response to Committee Member Miller's question, Alvarez responded that the size, type of monument and location in Triangle Park should be left to the experts to decide.

Dominguez referred the group to the handout of sign samples and discussed the various types of monument sign bases, size and durability of the plaques, and park locations. He explained that placement of the monuments took into consideration the need for park maintenance activities as well as visibility and aesthetics. He added that some of the park monuments have been approved with the condition the cost of the plaque and monument installation, as well as maintenance, be the responsibility of the requesting organization or individual.

Miller expressed his concern that at the December 6th Park Naming & Memorials Committee meeting, the Committee asked that the Historic Resource Board to reduce the amount of verbiage and present the facts in a bullet-point fashion.

Rechsteiner reiterated that when the Committee read the original verbiage submitted at the December 6th meeting, the Committee felt it was "too much" and asked the HRB to revise and resubmit the plaque language for approval. He noted that he was able to go out to several of the parks and look at the size and condition of the plaques. He indicated that in some cases where there was extensive wording, it was difficult to read and follow what the purpose of the plaque is representing.

Alvarez indicated that she was under the impression that the Committee preferred a story format. She commented the HRB enlisted the aid of a professional writer to assist with the wording.

Gasparian noted he is supportive in highlighting the historical value of Triangle Park and asked that the statements made be fact-checked prior to approving a recommendation. He commented that he is supportive of a plaque that includes bullet-point type historical fact-based statements and not the story-type wording submitted. He referred to the wording submitted in December noting that the statements should be factual and measurable. He added that while he was in favor of a bullet-point type plaque that perhaps both versions of wording should be submitted to the Commission for discussion and approval.

Rechsteiner also commented that if the intent of the HRB was to promote the history of the downtown through the walking tour, that a smaller monument type of pedestal be considered, something that both a child and adult would be able to read. He added that while he supported the separate monument and plaque, he is not in favor of the City

having to bear any of the expense. He asked Dominguez if the expense to maintain the non-standard park signs is something park maintenance performs.

Dominguez responded that City staff does maintain park identification signs however, most monument signs or plaques requested by organizations or individuals are usually approved with the caveat that the City not be responsible for on-going maintenance or replacement costs.

Rechsteiner asked if staff would work with the Historic Resource Board to prepare the wording for two different types of plaques for Commission recommendation; bullet-point fact based and story-type plaques. Discussion ensued with comments to the original wording submission being agreed upon by Committee members (Attachment 2). Dominguez responded that it may be possible to prepare a mock-up of the two types of plaques - story-type and bullet point type for the Commission to discuss. He added that the staff report can include the background, committee preferences, recommended actions and alternate actions for Commission consideration.

Gasparian reiterated and the Committee agreed that both types of formats be presented and that both types of formats include fact based information. Rechsteiner asked that in the desire to keep things moving forward that staff work with the Historic Resource Board on revising the two scenarios to present to the Commission.

Motion: Moved by Rechsteiner, seconded by Gasparian to:

- 1) Approve a free standing monument for installation at Triangle Park utilizing non-city funds, with the type and location to be determined by staff and the Historic Resources Board, And;
- 2) Recommend two styles of plaques be presented to the Community Services Commission for discussion – one in bullet point format and one in a narrative format, And;
- 3) Staff to work with the Historic Resource Board to verify dates and events on the wording to be presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

Priority List for Installation of City-Wide Standard Park Identification Signs –

Rechsteiner reported that he did not have an opportunity to visit every park on the Park List and commented that in his opinion, it was not necessary to come up with a priority list for all of the parks listed, that it seemed sufficient to come up with a list of the top 10 to 15 parks. He asked Dominguez to review the hand-out information.

Dominguez explained the Park Criteria handout was prepared based on the following categories; usage, visibility, parks without signs over 5-acres and special conditions. He also explained the theory of breaking down the city into three areas in order to allow the Committee to consider selecting and recommending an equal share of standard park sign installations throughout the City.

Miller asked if the Park Acquisition & Development (PA&D) fund has sufficient funds to support a recommendation.

Dominguez responded that the current budget did not identify funds for park signs however, based on the Committee's recommendation, funds for future sign installation could be included in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Miller noted his top criteria in choosing a priority list for sign installation is park usage and visibility. He noted the purpose of the park sign is to help identify the park to the public, so visibility and location in the park is key. He added that parks that have additional amenities such as the softball fields at Greer Park would aid the out of town visitor as well as members of the community by having a park sign.

Gasparian thanked staff for adding the Active and Passive description to the park list and asked for an explanation of the Special Conditions list.

Dominguez explained that Worthy, Lamb, Wardlow and LeBard Parks could have signs installed as part of reconfiguration projects at each location. He added that some parks could potentially be renamed since they are no longer adjacent to public schools.

Rechsteiner asked about signage in Huntington Central Park, noting that since the area is so large, it is hard for the general public and out of town visitors to find amenities at the park. He appreciated that the park list included a west park and east park description and asked of signage appropriate to the demarcation would be of benefit.

Dominguez responded that there had been proposals in the past for signage at Huntington Central Park. Due to the many points of ingress and egress he suggested that the Huntington Central Park Committee may be a proper avenue to review a signage plan for the park.

Committee members commented that Lake Park is the oldest park in the City of Huntington Beach and does not have a sign. Dominguez commented that the Lake Park Clubhouse is a rental facility that is utilized by the community and having a sign would also benefit the public coming to the park and clubhouse.

The Committee members reviewed their individual ranking and agreed to rank the six top locations for standard sign installation and revisit the priority list for additional locations after funding has been approved.

Motion: Moved by Rechsteiner, seconded by Miller to approve the priority list in the following order:

1. Lake Park
2. Blufftop Park
3. Greer Park
4. Harbour View Park
5. Bartlett Park
6. Wardlow Park

And; that park sign requests for other parks be brought back to Commission for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez
Secretary
Community Services Commission

By: Mary Loadsman, Recording Secretary

Attachment 1 – Historic Resources Board Corrections 02/14/13

Attachment 2 – Committee Member comments to original submission

Park Naming & Memorials Committee Meeting

Attachment 1 - 2nd HRB Submission with Corrections

TRIANGLE PARK

Triangle Park mirrors the history of Huntington Beach and has been the gateway to the Downtown Core for over 100 years. In 1901, the West Coast Land and Water Company, predecessor to the Huntington Beach Company, divided its first tract of land, so that by 1904 this area was referred to as Block 505. Triangle Park was named after its triangular shape according to a 1912 article in the Huntington Beach News newspaper describing a baseball park to be built here. The park's location and design reflect the City Beautiful movement started by Frederick Law Olmstead, the father of landscape architecture in the United States. The park included a grandstand, bleachers and club house. In 1917 the Huntington Beach Company deeded the land to the city for use as the city's second public park.

The early 1920s ushered in the oil boom to the city. Triangle Park was not immune to the ensuing rapid population growth, so tents and temporary houses appeared in the park. In the mid-1920s, however, Triangle Park returned to its original purpose as a place for public recreation and was incorporated into the New Civic Center. Trees, lighting, croquet courts and other improvements were added. It became a favorite spot for playing checkers, tossing horseshoes or putting golf balls.

In 1931 the Horseshoe Clubhouse with nearby horseshoe pits was built on the park's ~~northeast~~ southwest corner and was used by several clubs. During the 1940s the clubhouse was utilized by the American Red Cross in support of a World War II effort. With construction delayed by the war years, the Main Street Library opened in 1951 and was celebrated for its size and innovative design. ~~The new library became an integral part of Triangle Park, making it a perfect gathering place for reading, recreation and relaxation.~~

The residents of Huntington Beach have wholeheartedly and faithfully supported the park through their dedication and commitment to the preservation of Triangle Park throughout its history. As Triangle Park enters its second century with many of its over ninety-year-old palm trees still intact, this historic downtown park has undergone a renaissance and today remains an integral part of the city's history. **In 2013 it was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (pending)**

Park Naming & Memorials Committee Meeting
Attachment 2 - Original Wording with Corrections

TRIANGLE PARK

~~Established in 1912 – Dedicated 2012 (?)~~

~~100 years ago~~ Triangle Park ~~was~~ is named due to its triangular shape and is the second oldest park in Huntington Beach.

- 1912, The Huntington Beach News first wrote about the new baseball park to be located here at Triangle Park.
- 1917, the Huntington Beach Company formally deeded the land to the City for use as a public park.
- Throughout the 1920's the City planted trees, added lighting and beautified the park area ~~including the addition of checkerboards and croquet.~~
- 1931, a Horseshoe Clubhouse was added enhancing the use of the park and was utilized by the American Red Cross during the 1940's.
- 1951, the Main Street Library was added to the park providing a well rounded center for the community.

~~Today there is a renaissance of appreciation for this historic downtown park, this "pocket of charm" and as a part of the Downtown Historic Walking Tour.~~

~~Throughout its history, Triangle Park has been supported by the residents of Huntington Beach – Downtown and around town, and for whom it is dedicated today, August 10, 2012.~~

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TRIANGLE PARK

Triangle Park has been a centerpiece in Huntington Beach since the turn of the last century. In 1901, the West Coast Land and Water Company – predecessor to the Huntington Beach Company – divided its first tract of land. By 1904, the park area was designated Block 505, referred to by locals as the “triangular park”. With the organization of the Orange County Baseball League in 1910, parkland became a strong community desire. In 1912 the Huntington Beach News newspaper wrote that the park had been named because of its shape, “Triangle Park”. In 1917, the Huntington Beach Company formally deeded the land to the City of Huntington Beach for use as a public park. The 1920s ushered in the City’s oil boom, a rush of new residents creating housing shortages. Triangle Park became temporary home to one of Huntington Beach’s tent cities, known as “Bungalette Court” and “Cardboard Alley”. Triangle Park returned to park use, with trees, ornamental lighting, a putting green, croquet, checkers, horseshoes and America’s favorite pastime, night baseball games.

Triangle Park, along with the adjacent Block 405, was part of Huntington Beach’s old Civic Center which served the community from 1923 to 1974. The Park’s location and design were influenced by Frederick Law Olmstead’s City Beautiful Movement, a late 19th Century American planning philosophy promoting harmonious communities.

During World War II, the Triangle Park Horseshoe Clubhouse was used by the Red Cross. After the war, the Main Street Library construction began, opening in 1951 and serving as the City’s sole library.

As Triangle Park enters its second century, historic palms are markers of an earlier time. Triangle Park and the Main Street Library remain a beloved touchstone of Huntington Beach’s pioneer history in the heart of historic downtown.

In 2013, the California Historical Resources Commission recommended the United States Department of the Interior include the Main Street Library on Triangle Park on the National Register of Historical Places. *This designation was officially recognized on (pending).*



THIS PROPERTY
CONTRIBUTES TO THE

BUTTE

HISTORIC DISTRICT

LISTED IN THE
NATIONAL REGISTER

OF
HISTORIC PLACES

BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF INTERIOR

IN COOPERATION WITH
THE
**MONTANA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**JAMES NAUGHTEN
RESIDENCE**

This two-story home was built circa 1900 by James Naughten, one of the state's most skilled master mechanics. Naughten worked for various mining companies including the North Butte Mining Company where he installed the first electric hoist. By 1918, he had become president and manager of the Royal Development Mining Company. Naughten and his wife, Mary, raised nine children in the home, and when he died in 1938, he left thirty grandchildren. Attractive details such as decorative brickwork, arched windows and stone sills grace the exterior of this longtime residence. Only more recently of commercial/residential function, the building is exceptionally well maintained including one carefully preserved interior wall which is literally papered with cards and invoices of early Butte businesses.