



Information Item

Date: May 19, 2016

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Karen Ginsberg, Community and Cultural Services Director

Subject: Incorporation of five parcels of city open space on south side of Ocean Park Boulevard between 2nd Street and Highland Avenue into the parks system

Introduction

This report is to update the Council on a recommendation from the Recreation and Parks Commission to incorporate five parcels of City-owned open space located on the south side of Ocean Park Boulevard between Second Street and Highland Avenue into the city parks system.

Background

In late 2015 The Ocean Park Association (OPA) transmitted a letter (Attachment A) to the Recreation and Parks Commission to urge the Commission to address the condition and treatment of the five parcels of land informally known as the “ocean park green space” by adding them officially into the parks system so that a regular maintenance schedule would be established. These five parcels are shown on the attached map (Attachment B) and range in size from approximately 2,200 square feet to approximately 6,000 square feet. Collectively these parcels total approximately .43 acres. In response to OPA’s request, the Recreation and Parks Commission adopted a motion at its December 17, 2015 meeting to recommend that the City Council officially include these five parcels of open space as part of the park system.

Discussion

Over the past several months, the Public Landscape Division has focused attention to the maintenance levels of these parcels by increasing maintenance frequency, removing dead plant material, trimming hedges, repairing irrigation and adding decomposed granite to the access paths. This has also included mulching all parcels to prevent weed growth and erosion. Additionally, to continue with the City’s water conservation initiative, the Public Landscape

division will be converting the irrigation system from conventional spray heads to sub-surface irrigation system and installing drought tolerant plant material in June 2016.

Furthermore, staff is currently having the properties surveyed to ascertain the accurate boundaries for each parcel and plans to bring the recommendation forward for official incorporation into the parks system early next year along with Ishihara Park and Gandara Park.

Prepared By: Karen Ginsberg, Director CCS

Attachments: Attachment A: November 9, 2015 OPA letter
Attachment B: Site Plan



November 9, 2015

Recreation & Parks Commission, City of Santa Monica

The Board of the Ocean Park Association urges the Parks Commission to address five parcels of land that collectively are known as the "Ocean Park Green Space," parcels on the south side of Ocean Park Blvd between 2nd Street and Highland Avenue. They are not currently part of the City of Santa Monica's park system and in the past seem to have been inadvertently neglected.

As Santa Monica continues to seek more park space (we have the least amount of park space of any coastal California City, 1.48 acres per 1000 residents) we believe that these five small plots of green space with trees, foliage and footpaths should be incorporated into Santa Monica's park system. As part of our designated park system, they would receive more consistent attention from City staff and be better cared for. In addition, these micro parks will help to advance the cause city-wide of adding more precious park space.

The Board of the Ocean Park Association requests that the five parcels of green space known collectively as the Ocean Park Green Space be transferred to the City of Santa Monica's park space inventory and be cared for and protected along with our existing parks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Lawson
President - Ocean Park Association

