



SACRAMENTO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY



April 11, 1989

Redevelopment Agency of the
City of Sacramento
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Conceptual Approval of Streetscape Plan for Civic Center
District

SUMMARY

This report recommends that a conceptual plan for landscape and streetscape improvements for the Civic Center District, as defined in the Urban Design Plan, be approved.

BACKGROUND

The Sacramento Urban Design Plan identifies Plaza Park as the natural heart of the city. It is located between the CBD's primary northern and southern thoroughfares, 9th and 10th Streets, which link City Hall to the State government area, and "I" and "J" Streets, Sacramento's civic street and historic "main street," respectively.

A central goal of the Urban Design Plan is that the existing relationships between different elements of the city be emphasized and enhanced. Design themes which create a clear spine linking the civic and state centers while passing through Plaza Park are recommended, and streetscape improvements surrounding Plaza Park and along "I" Street which clearly identify the City's center are encouraged.

In response to the recommendations of the Urban Design Plan, and in recognition of the need to develop a cohesive plan by which development projects adjacent to Plaza Park might gear their streetscape improvements, Agency staff retained the services of POD, a landscape architectural firm, to develop a conceptual plan for the enhancement of the periphery of Plaza Park. POD is the firm which developed the Streetscape Guidelines as a part of the Urban Design Plan. POD is also the architectural firm responsible for the planned streetscape improvements surrounding Library Plaza. They are, therefore, well acquainted with the City's aspirations regarding its civic center.

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SACRAMENTO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Redevelopment Agency of the
City of Sacramento
April 11, 1989
Page 2

The design concept proposed by POD attempts to strengthen the urban design potential of Plaza Park in two ways. First, by defining the perimeter edges of Plaza Park as a high-quality, pedestrian-oriented promenade, and second, by engaging the framework of the surrounding streetscape frontages into a coordinated design image. The concept proposes that the streetscape design elements consisting of street tree planting, street lighting, sidewalk and intersection paving materials work together to express a unified character that will strengthen the image of Plaza Park as a distinct urban open space in the downtown. (Please see Exhibit "A" attached.)

Approval of the design concept presented by POD at this time will create a specific goal to work toward and to be incorporated in developments which face Plaza Park, and which may occur before funding for the upgrading of the park itself is available. City staff members coordinating the East End Garage project have already embodied the design concepts presented here in their streetscape plans in an effort to visually link the garage project with Library Plaza.

Ideally, improvements surrounding Plaza Park should be implemented in concert with improvement of the park itself. The park, as it currently exists, is disjointed, with no clear central feature or "core area," and multiple isolated enclaves. City Parks and Recreation staff is currently reviewing design means by which the park might be refined, and a singular, distinctive urban park space which meets the needs of a variety of users, be created. Agency staff has recommended that a contest for re-design of the park be held between a limited number of nationally recognized landscape architects in order to assure a plan of high quality and lasting significance. The City staff supports the design presented for the periphery of the park, and intends to incorporate these ideas in the final plan for the park's interior. Though funds for these improvements are not currently available, Agency staff believe that the streetscape and park improvements should be a priority of both the Agency and the City, as funds become available, and so are recommending approval of the design plan at this time.

SACRAMENTO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Redevelopment Agency of the
City of Sacramento
April 11, 1989
Page 3

FINANCIAL DATA

The streetscape improvements presented have an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. This includes both the improvements surrounding the park and the four intersection treatments.

Only conceptual approval of the plan is sought at this time, and therefore, no allocation of funds is requested.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Approval of the attached resolution will set a design standard for streetscape improvements to be considered as a part of approval of new development adjacent to Plaza Park. The resolution will also establish the streetscape improvements as a goal of the City and Agency. While no specific improvements are recommended now, the standards will serve to guide development around the park as it occurs.

MBE/WBE

No impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

CEQA: This action is exempt from CEQA requirements per Section 15378(b)(3).

NEPA: No federal funding is involved.

VOTE AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION

At its meeting of April 3, 1989, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission adopted a motion recommending approval of the attached resolution. The votes were as follows:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

SACRAMENTO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Redevelopment Agency of the
City of Sacramento
April 11, 1989
Page 4

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends the approval of the attached resolution which adopts the conceptual streetscape design for Plaza Park and the Civic Core district.

Respectfully submitted,


ANDREW J. PEESCIA
Acting Executive Director

AJP/WS:cmc

TRANSMITTAL TO COUNCIL:


WALTER J. SLUPE
City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO

ON DATE OF

APPROVAL OF CONCEPTUAL PLANS FOR THE CIVIC DISTRICT

Whereas, the City of Sacramento (City) approved the Urban Design Plan on June 17, 1987 by Resolution No. 87-040; and

Whereas, the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Sacramento (Agency) has prepared conceptual design plans (Plans) for the perimeter of Plaza Park and surrounding block faces in accordance with the Urban Design Plan; and

Whereas, the City desires to approve the Plans and to incorporate them as a part of future development of the Park and properties which surround the Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO;

Section 1: The Plans are hereby approved as the Conceptual Plans for the Civic District.

Section 2: The Conceptual Plans for the Civic District shall be considered by the Design Review Board as a part of the approval of any project adjacent to Plaza Park;

Section 3: The Conceptual Plans for the Civic District shall be incorporated in any future modification of Plaza Park.

CHAIR

ATTEST:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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