

MEMORANDUM

To: Robin Stieler, Interim Clerk of the Board

From: Chairman Todd Spitzer, Board of Supervisors

Date: May 1, 2015

RE: Supplemental Item for May 5 for Mile Square Regional Park Statue Donations

S5/A

Please place the attached supplemental item on the May 5 Board of Supervisors agenda for an item by Supervisor Do regarding Mile Square Regional Park statue donations.

TODD SPYZER

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item.



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:

5/05/15

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION:

Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S):

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:

Supervisor Do (A. Alur

Brian Probolsky (714-834-3110)

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S):

Stacy Blackwood, OC Parks (949-923-3743)

SUBJECT: Mile Square Regional Park Statue Donations

CLERK OF THE BOARD Discussion

3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: N/A

Current Year Cost: N/A

Annual Cost: N/A

Staffing Impact: No

of Positions: N/A

Sole Source: N/A

Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

County Audit in last 3 years: No

Prior Board Action: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- Find that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act 1. (CEQA), Classes 1 & 3, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15301 & 15303.
- 2. Approve the acceptance of three bronze statues of Ronald Reagan, Manuel Hidalgo, and General Tran Hung Dao from an anonymous donor, exact value unknown.
- Designate Mile Square Regional Park as site for future permanent installation of the statues. 3.
- Approve the allocation of County resources to maintain the statues following installation. 4.
- Find that the actions above serve a public purpose of the County of Orange in accordance with 5. Government Code section 26227 by raising awareness and providing for the educational needs of park visitors.

SUMMARY:

Authorization to accept the statue donations and allocate County resources will allow for statues that honor former president Ronald Reagan, Manuel Hidalgo, and General Tran Hung Dao to be permanently installed at Mile Square Regional Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mile Square Regional Park (Mile Square Park) is located in the City of Fountain Valley and is the largest County park in the First District. With its many amenities, including a newly refurbished archery range, soccer fields, volleyball courts and biking and paddleboat rentals, Mile Square Park draws a large number of visitors each year. In calendar year 2014, over 700,000 visitors were recorded by parking attendants.

An anonymous donor has recently come forward to donate three six-foot tall bronze statues of Ronald Reagan, Manuel Hidalgo, and General Tran Hung Dao to be installed near Freedom Lake in Mile Square Park (see Attachment A). The permitting, construction, and installation of the statues is also proposed to be donated.

Former President Reagan kicked off his presidential campaigns in 1980 and 1984 at Mile Square Park – both successful campaigns leading to his election, with the latter preceding a landslide victory. He was a proponent of individual freedom, both domestically and abroad, and made great strides toward reinvigorating the American economy and inhibiting the spread of Soviet communism.

Father Manuel Hidalgo was a Mexican priest and revolutionary leader in the early 1800s who made his famous speech, El Grito de Dolores, on September 16, 1810, that called for an uprising against the Spanish government and sparked a revolution that would ultimately lead to Mexico's independence from Spain.

General Tran Hung Dao was the commander-in-chief of the Vietnamese armed forces in the late 1200s who galvanized his country against the Mongols, commanded by Kublai Khan, and led an army largely comprised of volunteers and untrained villagers to successfully liberate the Vietnam capital and eventually defeat the Mongol army.

Maintenance costs for the statues are expected to be minimal and consist primarily of periodic dusting using blowers and occasional pressure washing and graffiti removal. Maintenance of the statues would be incorporated into maintenance activities already conducted in the park, similar to features in other County parks, such as the cannons at the Old County Courthouse and Irvine Regional Park and the James Irvine II statue at Irvine Regional Park, and would be handled using existing staff and contracts.

Government Code section 26227 allows the Board of Supervisors to appropriate and expend money from the general fund of the county to establish county programs or to fund other programs deemed by the Board of Supervisors to be necessary to meet the social needs of the population of the county, including but not limited to, the areas of health, law enforcement, public safety, rehabilitation, welfare, education, and legal services, and the needs of physically, mentally and financially handicapped persons and aged persons. The proposed statues of former President Ronald Reagan, Manuel Hidalgo, and General Tran Hung Dao provide both and esthetic and educational value to Mile Square Park visitors by honoring the ancestry of many members of the community, commemorating the connection between the President and Orange County, celebrating freedom across different cultures, and providing learning opportunities on these historic figures.

Compliance with CEQA: The proposed project is Categorically Exempt (Classes 1 & 3) from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15301 & 15303, because it involves new construction and installation of small structures (statues) in an existing facility, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond the existing.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

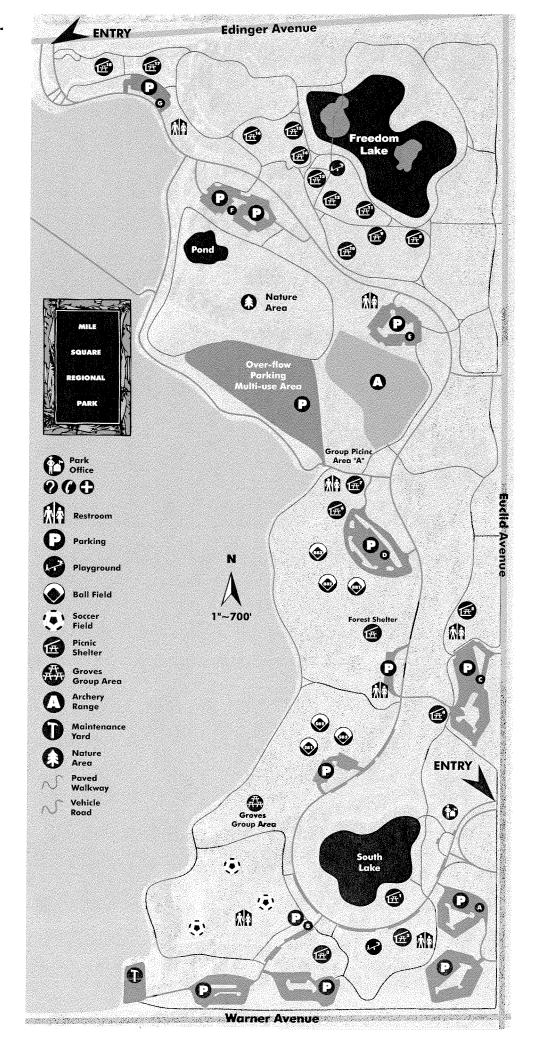
N/A

STAFFING IMPACT:

Minimal staff time associated with ongoing maintenance of the statues following installation can be absorbed in the OC Parks work plan for current and future years.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment A – Location Map and Photos





Freedom Lake at Mile Square Regional Park

