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Title: RESOLUTION - Renaming the Van Ness and Weldon Pocket Park to "Trolley" Park

Sponsors: Annalisa Perea

Indexes:

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Attachments: 1. Redline Resolution to Name Van Ness Park to Trolley Park 11-29-23 CLEAN, 2. EXHIBIT A, 3. EXHIBIT B_

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/14/2023	1	City Council	TABLED	

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: ANNALISA PEREA, Council Vice President
District 1

SUBJECT

RESOLUTION - Renaming the Van Ness and Weldon Pocket Park to "Trolley" Park

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of approval of the resolution for the naming of the commonly known Van Ness and Weldon Pocket Park to "Trolley" Park.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 9, 2022, City Council approved the Agreement for the Purchase and Sale to acquire a 9,339 square-foot parcel located at 2004 N. Van Ness Boulevard (APN 444-153-28S) for \$315,000. The approval also included awarding a construction contract with Avison Construction, Inc. of Madera, CA for \$457,222 for the development of a public pocket park. On the same date, City Council approved the vacation of a portion of the parcel (APN 444-153-28S) to accommodate Development Permit Application Number P21-05164, allowing for the development of the pocket park.

On July 29, 2022, a groundbreaking ceremony was held with former District One Councilmember Esmeralda Soria, Scott Mozier, Director of Public Works Department, and Aaron Aguirre, Director of Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services Department marking the commencement of construction for Van Ness and Weldon Park.

The genesis of this project lies in the rich historical tapestry of the Fresno High Neighborhood and Fresno's former trolley car system, which traversed Van Ness and Weldon until its discontinuation in 1939. The Fresno Station, which was incorporated into the City of Fresno in 1885, witnessed the expansion of streetcar lines across Fresno, with the Roeding Park streetcar line completed by 1912. Notably, the Wishon Line Car, an extension of this car line, passed under the Santa Fe tracks and through the 1914 Wishon Ave underpass just south of Shields Avenue. Although this underpass has been transformed into a new roadway, it remains an integral part of a broader collection of historical artifacts in the Fresno High neighborhood, alongside the riverbed pillars along Van Ness Boulevard, Fresno High School, and historical houses.

Given the historical significance of the trolley system in Fresno's past and its direct connection to the location of the park, renaming the Van Ness and Weldon Pocket Park to "Trolley" Park is a fitting tribute. This resolution aligns with the City's commitment to preserving and celebrating its rich history while providing residents with accessible and enjoyable public spaces. The park will serve as a tangible reminder of Fresno's past and a source of community pride.

The anticipated completion date for the construction of the park is set for January 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

This is not a "project for the purposes of CEQA, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

LOCAL PREFERENCE

Local preference was not considered because the renaming of a City facility does not include a bid or award of a construction or service contract.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no net impact to the general fund.

Attachment:

Resolution
Exhibit A
Exhibit B