



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

24-0006

Agenda Date: 2/15/2024

2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 24-05

TITLE Explore Making the City-Owned Property at West Evelyn & Mathilda Place Open and Accessible to the Public with A Rehabilitation of the Existing Bus Terminal Sign Abandoned at that Location

BACKGROUND

Lead Department:	Department of Public Works
Support Departments:	Office of the City Manager Office of the City Attorney
Sponsor(s):	Parks and Recreation Commission
History:	1 year ago: N/A 2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this Study?

The City-owned right-of-way parcel at the corner of Mathilda Place and Evelyn Avenue, adjacent to the Mathilda Avenue overpass which has Canary Island pine trees, pine needles and a post and sign frame, used to hold a bus terminal sign. The sign was abandoned many years ago and the remaining post and sign frame are in poor condition. The sign used to welcome visitors to downtown Sunnyvale and is part of the City's history.

What are the key elements of the Study?

This Study issue would explore ways to make use of this underused area of downtown. The first item to address is whether the sign is of historical value by performing a Historic Resource Evaluation. The evaluation would research the original installation date, determine the age of the sign, and its importance to a person, place, or thing in the City's history. This initial evaluation is anticipated to cost approximately \$20,000 for consultant services.

If the sign is determined to be not historic and can be repurposed, the City can then evaluate other options such re-purposing the sign as a welcome to downtown Sunnyvale sign.

The parcel by the former bus terminal sign, which is approximately 5,000 square feet, could be repurposed for additional uses, such as but not limited to a small park(let), a dog run, a remote-controlled (RC) car raceway or a food truck court. There are a variety of other uses which could be explored in this study issue. If it is determined that the parcel should be repurposed, then it would have to be formally added to the City's park inventory.

Estimated years to complete study: 1 year

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$125,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement - General Fund

The initial cost would be to hire a consultant. Dependent on the results of the Study, costs incurred may include rehabilitation of area, capital costs, and new maintenance costs.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. The Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue/savings.

EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Parks and Recreation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Drop. This policy issue does not merit discussion at a Study Issues Workshop.

There was a Greyhound Bus sign that was located on a small City-owned parcel, that is approximately 5,000 square feet, located at the corner of Evelyn Avenue and Mathilda Place. The sign has been abandoned, fallen into disrepair, and all that remains is a metal post and metal sign frame that once held a Greyhound Bus sign. The Study proposes to re-evaluate potential uses of the sign for wayfinding purposes. However, the City already has a capital improvement project, Project 826800 Downtown Wayfinding and Gateways, to install coordinated signs and gateway features that will provide a uniform and clear signage program to navigate to and within the downtown area.

Regarding studying the parcel for other standard park-like uses (e.g., dog park, food truck court, RC car raceway, etc.), due to the small size of the parcel, the number of mature trees and mounded nature of the parcel, as well as its close proximity to busy streets, staff does not think that the location is well suited for such activities.

Prepared by: Jim Stark, Superintendent of Parks and Golf

Reviewed by: Chip Taylor, Director, Department of Public Works

Reviewed by: Sarah Johnson-Rios, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager