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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

March 19, 2008

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM:


JON KIRK MURKI
General Manager

SUBJECT: HAZARD PARK – PROPOSED PROJECT: LEGACY L.A. FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMMING AT ARMORY BUILDING

Background

The Department of Recreation and Parks currently owns the old Armory building (Armory) in Hazard Park in northeast Los Angeles. The Armory, built in 1953, is situated on a 4.2 acre portion of the 25.03 acre Hazard Park and is presently unused by the Department due to lack of funding for much needed repairs. Recently, the Department was approached by Legacy L.A. (Legacy) about developing Hazard Park for community use. Legacy is a community-based organization dedicated to building strong futures for the children and youth of the East Los Angeles community by providing recreation, art, music, and training through various programs, classes, mentoring, and tutoring.

The Proposed Project

The Department and Legacy are presently discussing a possible partnership to renovate the Armory building. With the support of Councilmember Jose Huizar of Council District Fourteen, the Department, and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Legacy proposes to convert the Armory building into a state-of-the-art recreational, cultural, and educational facility and model program for at-risk communities nationwide.

Legacy, with assistance from Councilmember Jose Huizar, will conduct a Feasibility Study to develop a site plan, building renovation plan, and program plan reflecting the needs and vision of the community. The Feasibility Study shall include surveys, inspections, analysis (building structure, repair and modification, environmental, programming, etc.), budget analysis, potential fund raising sources, and community meetings. Legacy has proposed to perform the Feasibility Study and other project related activities at its sole expense.

The Department will issue Legacy a temporary, revocable right-of-entry permit and will provide staff support for access to building and property records, historical data, and supervision as necessary.

Although the Department is in favor of the project in concept, it is too early to make any solid commitments other than assisting with the Feasibility Study. The Department's future position on the project shall be contingent upon the Feasibility Study findings and further discussions with Legacy regarding a possible future partnership. Upon completion of Legacy's Feasibility Study, staff will present the findings with appropriate recommendation(s) to the Board for consideration.

Councilmember Jose Huizar of Council District Fourteen, the Operations East Assistant General Manager, and the Metro Region Superintendent all support the process described in this report for potential development of the facility and possible partnership with Legacy.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Sr. Management Analyst, Real Estate and Asset Management.