

APPROVED

NOV 03 2010

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 10-313

DATE November 3, 2010

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SHATTO RECREATION CENTER – INSTALLATION OF PLAQUE TO
COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

R. Adams	_____	F. Mok	_____
H. Fujita	_____	K. Regan	_____
S. Huntley	_____	*M. Shull	<u>mf</u>
V. Israel	_____		

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of a commemorative plaque at Shatto Recreation Center;
2. Approve the wording and placement of the commemorative plaque, as described in the Summary of this Report; and,
3. Direct staff to install the plaque as indicated.

SUMMARY:

Shatto Recreation Center is located at 3191 West 4th Street in the Wilshire community. This facility is a 5.45 acre park which includes a recreation center, baseball diamond, basketball courts, community room, tennis courts and volleyball courts. This proposal is for the installation of a plaque at Shatto Recreation Center that will commemorate International Mother Language Day.

Background:

The Bengali speaking communities around the world observe Shaheed Day on February 21 of each year to commemorate the historic mother language movement that culminated in the loss of a number of Bengalee youths lives in 1952 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, homeland of the Bangalee nation. In 1999, the United Nations officially declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day, which is an observance held annually to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

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In 2009 the Department received a proposal from the Shahid Minar Committee to erect an “International Mother Language Monument” at Shatto Recreation Center. After a lengthy review process staff determined that the proposed monument is not an appropriate use of the limited open space at Shatto Recreation Center. At that time staff recommended that a plaque commemorating International Mother Language Day be investigated as an appropriate compromise.

In 2010 the International Mother Language Monument Committee returned to the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) with a proposal for a plaque installation commemorating International Mother Language Day. The proposed plaque will be made of bronze and sized 12” wide x 18” tall. Exhibit A shows the proposed text along with an image relief of the originally proposed monument statue. Exhibit B shows the proposed location for the plaque within an underutilized lawn area at Shatto Recreation Center. The Shahid Minar Committee will be responsible for all costs associated with the manufacture, installation, and maintenance of the proposed plaque. Should the plaque not be maintained to Department standards, the Department reserves the right to remove the plaque.

On Friday, September 10, 2010, Department staff facilitated a community meeting to discuss the proposed plaque. Those attending the meeting had no objection to the proposal.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article VLL, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

The Councilmember of the District and Metro Region management and staff have no objection to this project at Shatto Recreation Center. Department staff will work with the applicant to facilitate the installation of the plaque.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Installation of plaque will have negligible impact on the Department’s General Fund as the cost of the plaque and plaque installation and maintenance will be funded by the Shahid Minar Committee.

This report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning and Construction.

International Mother Language Monument (Shaheed Minar)



The United Nations Organization (UNO) declared February 21 as the International Mother Language Day in 1999. The Bangladesh Government made the official proposal to the UNESCO in 1999, which was seconded by a large number of countries. Then on November 17, 1999, the UNO adopted the resolution, and officially declared the February 21 as the International Mother Language Day. With this declaration, February 21 became the Day of Celebration for all the people of the world who share the pride, honor and love for their mother languages, as symbolized by this Shaheed Minar. The historical background of this Special Day is the sacrifice and defending of the Mother language of the people of Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) on February 21, 1952.

**City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
Shatto Recreation Center**

2010

Exhibit B

Shatto Recreation Center with location of proposed plaque.



Arial View of Shatto Recreation Center.

