

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
Department of Recreation and Parks

September 17, 2020

TO: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
FROM: Michael A. Shull, General Manager   
SUBJECT: Update on Mathews Property Park Development

SUMMARY

Brooklyn Heights Park is located at 318 North Mathews Street in the Boyle Heights community of the City. This 0.19-acre (8,547 square foot) site is currently unimproved and is in the process of being developed into a new neighborhood park that will include new playgrounds and fitness equipment, a plaza, public art, landscaping, and park lighting. Approximately 13,844 City residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Brooklyn Heights Park.

Site Acquisition

On July 17, 2019, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) approved the acquisition of the property at 318 North Mathews Street, from NELA Holdings, LLC (Report No. 19-149). The purchase price for the property was \$925,000.

RAP acquired the property at 318 North Mathews Street on September 25, 2019.

At the time that RAP acquired the site the property was improved with two vacated and boarded up residential buildings, one single-story and one two-story, totaling approximately 3,077 square feet. After RAP acquired the property, new security fencing was installed around the perimeter of the entire site.

Project Funding

On August 21, 2019, the Board authorized RAP to submit an application to the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreations (State) under the Proposition 68 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant (Prop 68 SPP) for the Brooklyn Heights Park project.

The proposed scope of work for the Brooklyn Heights Park project included the construction of new playgrounds with shade, new fitness equipment area with shade, a plaza, walking path, public art, landscaping and lighting throughout the park.

On February 25, 2020, the State notified RAP that the Brooklyn Heights Park project was awarded \$5,198,400 in funding from the Prop 68 SPP Grant Program.

Per the requirements of the Prop 68 SPP Grant Program, the Brooklyn Heights Park project is required to be complete and open to the public by June 30, 2024.

### Site Status

RAP is currently in the process of demolishing the two residential structures at the site.

On April 25, 2020 there was fire at the site, which damaged the single-story residential structure located at the rear of the property. On July 23, 2020 there was a second fire at the site, which damaged the two-story residential structure located at the front of the property.

The demolition of the two vacated residential buildings, and clearance of the site, began on September 8, 2020. It is anticipated that demolition of the buildings will take approximately one week to complete. During this demolition phase there will be 24-hour unarmed security at the site, which will continue as needed until the site is cleared and the demolition work is complete.

After demolition of the site is complete the property will remain fenced off and secured until the construction of the new park is ready to proceed.

### Park Design

The Brooklyn Heights Park project is currently in the design phase. RAP staff is in the process of developing the construction documents for the project.

As previously noted, the future Brooklyn Heights Park project will feature new playgrounds with shade, new fitness equipment, a plaza, walking path, public art, landscaping and lighting throughout the park. As a part of the design process RAP will continue to solicit community input and feedback on the project design in order to ensure that the final design and layout of the new park is developed in conformance with the Prop 68 SPP Grant Program requirements and is reflective of the community's input and needs.

Additionally, RAP will be partnering with the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) on development of the public art component of the project. As a part of that process, DCA and RAP will host additional community meetings to get confirmation from the public on what themes and scope they would like to be reflected in the public art and DCA will prepare a request for proposals, which will be open to local artists, based upon the feedback received on public art at those meetings. Through this process DCA, along with the community, will select a prime artist whose job it will be to design and build the artwork for the park.