

REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
From the City Manager

July 28, 2008

SUBJECT

Approval of the "Ray of Light Birdbath" Public Art for installation adjacent to the new Redwood Shores Library

RECOMMENDATION

Approve by motion, "Ray of Light" Birdbath for installation adjacent to the new Redwood Shores Library; and authorize staff to use an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the GR Cress Birdbath fund for its acquisition and installation.

BACKGROUND

On April 12, 2004, Council accepted the final distribution of the proceeds of the estate of Gene Robert Cress, which named the Redwood City Park System as sole beneficiary. Subject to the terms of his bequest, the Council also established the GR Cress Birdbath Fund with just over one million dollars in proceeds from the estate. In 2006, the Civic Cultural Commission (CCC) decided to explore the possibility of using some of the fund proceeds to add public art in Redwood City and at the same time meet the estate's direction to provide bird watering and feeding stations. The CCC established a subcommittee to more fully investigate the idea.

The Subcommittee visited various City-owned locations to identify possible sites for the birdbaths and made a presentation to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to get a sense of whether they would consider installations in public parks. Subsequently, the Subcommittee issued a "Call for Artists" and was thrilled to receive more than 150 responses from artists across the globe. After a lengthy review process by the CCC subcommittee, a member of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission and an outside art expert, five submissions were selected for presentation to the full Commission.

As this process was moving forward, the Commission saw an opportunity to place a "public art" birdbath at the new Redwood Shores Library. After a meeting with the City Engineer, the Project Architect, Civic Cultural Commissioners, Library staff, members of the Library Foundation, and Parks and Recreation staff, the public art birdbath "Ray of Light" was chosen. Staff and the Commission then began an outreach effort to put their proposal before as many groups as possible. We received approval from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, (BCDC), praise from the Redwood Shores Community Association, sent letters to the Redwood Shores Owners Association and the Redwood Shores Business Association (no comments have been received from these two associations), and received a positive recommendation from the City's own Architectural Review Committee.

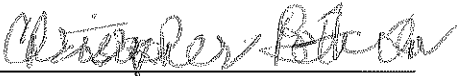
Details on the size and materials for the "Ray of Light" Birdbath along with pictures are included as Attachment 1 of this report.

ALTERNATIVES

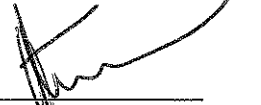
1. Ask the Civic Cultural Commission and Staff to select another piece of public art for the Redwood Shores Library
2. Reject placing a public art birdbath at the Redwood Shores Library

FISCAL IMPACT

The G.R. Cress Birdbath Fund has a balance of over \$1.1 million. Any purchase of birdbaths, installation and maintenance for birdbaths would be paid for out of this account.



Christopher Beth
Recreation & Community Services Superintendent



Peter Ingram
City Manager



Corinne Centeno
Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director

ATTACHMENTS

1. Barton Rubenstein, Sculpture and Public Art Specifications and Pictures

RELATED DOCUMENTS IN CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

None

Rubenstein Studios
4819 Dorset Avenue Chevy Chase, MD 20815
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Email: bartsher@aol.com Website: www.RubensteinStudios.com

Barton Rubenstein
Sculpture and Public Art
Bronze • Stainless Steel • Glass • Stone
Indoor and Outdoor

ALL SITE MATERIALS DESCRIBED BELOW CAN BE PROVIDED BY RUBENSTEIN STUDIOS.

“Ray of Light” © 2008

Dimensions: 60"H x 38"W x 20"D

Material: Brushed Stainless Steel (Water)

Required Site Dimensions: 12' diameter

Foundations: Three concrete pads (12" x 12" x 8"H) will secure sculpture to ground.

Reservoir: An 150 gallon Rubbermaid reservoir with a stainless steel top will be set into the ground in front of the sculpture.

Rubber Tarp and Stones: A rubber tarp will be laid on the graded site with the water draining down the tarp into the reservoir. Large stones (minimum of 3" diameter) will cover the tarp.

Sculpture Plumbing: 1.5" PVC plumbing to connect ½ hp 3600gph stainless steel sump pump (in reservoir) to sculpture. Includes valve and union fitting.

Electrical Requirements: 1- 20 amp circuit (pump), 1- 15 amp circuit (low voltage light, front and back). Place outlet next to site.

Lighting: Low voltage lighting, placed in front and behind the sculpture, nestled within the stones.

Water Requirements: 1/2" PVC line to the site. This line will be connected to a water valve in the reservoir that will add water to the system as water evaporates.

Maintenance:

The maintenance of the water sculpture is minimal. The timers, mounted next to the electrical outlet will control the pumps and lights.

Timers: **Very Little Maintenance:** If there is a power outage, the time of day will have to be reset on the timers.

Sculpture: **Very Little Maintenance.** The sculpture will retain its reflective surface, rust-free for many decades. Occasionally, iron particles from the atmosphere or from the water will land on the sculpture. To remove these, use a conventional scotch-brite pad and gingerly rub off foreign object, brushing in the direction of the existing brush marks. To clean the sculpture of dirt or bird droppings, use non-abrasive liquid soap and a soft towel. Graffiti will come off easily with a spinning scotchbrite pad (Doall, 800-923-6255,0, Part #13719 6x1/2x1/2 pads; Milwaukee 7" Sander, Cat#6078, 0-6000 rpm). When removing graffiti, I recommend repolishing the entire side of the sculpture.

Pumps: **Very Little Maintenance.** The stainless steel pumps typically have a 1-2 year warranty, but last around 5 years. They can be easily accessed/replaced by removing the base plates on top of the reservoir, unscrewing the PVC union joints and then swapping the pumps.

Soap Vandalism: **Very Little Maintenance.** SOAP WILL NOT RUIN THE SYSTEM. If someone adds soap to the system, drain water from the reservoir and then add water to the system (essentially flushing out the system).

Lighting: **No Maintenance.** These low voltage lights are inexpensive, easy to replace and run off of a timer.

Temporary Removal of Sculpture: The sculpture can be removed quite easily by removing the stones surrounding the sculpture, disconnecting pvc union connections, unscrewing nuts under each sculpture, and then carefully lifting sculptures off base. To reinstall sculpture, do the same in the opposite order, turn on the pumps, and adjust nuts at bottom of sculpture so that water flows over all surfaces. Then, tighten bolts.

