

CITY OF VENTURA
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Date: April 24, 2008

Agenda Item No.: 5

Council Action Date: May 12, 2008

To: RICK COLE, CITY MANAGER
From: RONALD J. CALKINS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
Subject: VENTURA PEACE POLE INSTALLATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that:

- a. The City Council accept the donation of a Peace Pole to be installed at Plaza Park.
- b. Consider installation of another peace pole at Cemetery Memorial Park when the memorial project is implemented.

SUMMARY

On February 20, 2008, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a proposal for a peace memorial in a city park. The Commission recommends that the City Council accept the donation of a Peace Pole for placement at Plaza Park, and consider another pole at Cemetery Memorial Park when the memorial project is implemented.

DISCUSSION

There are over 200,000 peace pole installations worldwide. The poles are installed in quiet, reflective sites accessible to the entire community such as village squares, commons and parks. These "peace gardens" encourage reflection and celebration of life. A peace pole is an obelisk made of fine wood, stone or metal with the inscription "*may peace prevail on earth*". A local group called Beyond War is proposing the donation of a Peace Pole to the City.

On February 20, 2008, Dr. Robert Dodge, local contact for Beyond War, made a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council accept the donation of a pole and that it be installed at Plaza Park. The Commission also recommends that the Council consider another pole at Cemetery Memorial Park when the memorial project is implemented.

A committee comprised of representatives from the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Public Art Commission and Park staff will be formed to determine where the pole should be installed in Plaza Park.

Attached is a copy of the proposal and a picture of a peace pole.

FISCAL IMPACTS

There is no cost for the pole or its installation. Ongoing maintenance costs will be minimal and absorbed by the Parks Division.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council could refuse the donation of a Peace Pole, or could recommend another site.

Prepared by Mike Montoya, 
Deputy Public Works Director/Parks for



Ronald J. Calkins
Public Works Director

Reviewed as to fiscal impacts



Jay Panzica
Chief Financial Officer

FORWARDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL



Office of the City Manager

Attachments: Beyond War – Ventura Peace Garden Project
Photo of a Peace Pole

ATTACHMENT "A"

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Beyond War – Ventura Peace Garden Project

<p><u>Proposal</u></p> <p><i>the solution:</i></p> <p><i>site options:</i></p> <p><i>leverage:</i></p>	<p><u>A Community space for peace –</u> Ventura’s Beyond War Team proposes to present the City of San Buenaventura a Peace Pole to be placed in a designated “Peace Garden”. The proposed presentation would be to the City Council during the “Season of Peace and Non-violence” from December ’07 through Dr. Martin Luther King’s memorial 4/4/08.</p> <p><i>a peace garden in our community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public spaces that reinforce peace - public gatherings there do the same - a supporting website for each garden - a network/directory of all gardens/websites <p><i>Memorial Park (great site for reflection, meditation; central location; current renovation plan), Plaza Park, Mission Park</i></p> <p><i>this project has all of the following elements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mainstream, community-oriented, visible, public, interactive, educational, transformational, fundamental, enduring
<p><u>The Project</u></p> <p><i>what it is:</i></p> <p><i>the website:</i></p>	<p><u>A peace garden in every community; a network of peace websites</u> <i>There are over 200,000 peace pole installations worldwide</i></p> <p><i>a peace garden consists of a “peace pole” and surrounding decor: benches, stones, trees, shrubs, flowers -- things that celebrate life</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a 4-or-6-sided obelisk made of fine wood, stone, or metal -- with “may peace prevail on earth” inscribed in different languages - suitable surroundings for contemplating/inspiring peace - located on public property accessible to the whole community, such as parks, commons, village squares, municipal grounds <p><i>local website with community peace events, information, artwork</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - keeps things fresh, interesting, and relevant to the community - links to directory of all recognized peace gardens worldwide
<p><u>Local Team</u></p>	<p><u>Ventura has a local Beyond War action team and was host of the ‘2007 Beyond War annual International meeting</u></p> <p><i>this project has strong community support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strong interest from schools, religious communities, local businesses, and community groups <p>local contact Dr. Robert Dodge, 805-641-2000</p>

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