



## City Council Staff Report

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**Subject:** Commemorative Tree and Bench Donation Appeal

**Date:** June 27, 2023

**Submitted By:** Kevin Huntzinger, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Department:** Parks and Recreation

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**Recommendation:**

Reject the Commemorative Tree and Bench Donation Application Appeals Submitted by Barry Goodwin

**Background:**

As the Parks and Recreation Department began to receive an increased number of requests for the installation of trees and benches in City parks, it became evident that it would benefit the City to adopt a policy to regulate and manage the requests. On January 26, 2021, the City Council approved the establishment of a "two by two by two" committee, with the task of creating a tree and bench donation program and policy. The committee consisted of two members each from the City Council, Parks Recreation and Arts Commission, and Community Recognition Committee. The committee researched other municipalities in the area with similar programs and used key components to build the framework for the Parks and Recreation Tree and Bench Donation Policy.

On December 14, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-240, approving the Tree and Bench Donation Policy (Attachment 1). Page 3 of the policy identifies what language can be included on the donation plaque. Since the policy's approval, the Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission has approved several tree and bench donation applications using the policy as a guide for their decisions.

Mr. Barry Goodwin submitted two separate tree and bench donation applications, which were reviewed at the Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission (PRAC) meetings on August 10, 2022 and September 14, 2022.

The application that was reviewed at the August 10, 2022 PRAC meeting was rejected by the Commission because the third line of the plaque listed a date range. The policy requires that the third line of the plaque list the date of donation. The details of Mr. Goodwin's request are below.

**Line One:** In Memory of  
**Line Two:** Julia Marie Goodwin  
**Line Three:** 1993-2021

The application that was reviewed at the September 14, 2022 PRAC meeting was rejected by the Commission because all three lines of the requested plaque verbiage did not meet the requirements of the policy. The details of Mr. Goodwin's request are below.

**Line One:** She Defended These Goals  
**Line Two:** With Her Heart and Soul  
**Line Three:** May She "Substitute Out" In Peace

On September 15, 2022, Mr. Goodwin appealed the two decisions (Attachment 2). Since the appeals have been filed, Parks and Recreation staff have been working with the City Clerk's Office and the City Manager's Office to develop a process for the appeals to be considered by City Council.

Staff recommends the City Council reject the appeals submitted by Mr. Barry Goodwin, as they are not consistent with the adopted Tree and Bench Donation policy.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the staff recommendation.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Tree and Bench Donation Policy](#)
2. [Appeal dated 09.15.2022](#)