



## Item No. 18 Town of Atherton

### **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: MICHAEL KASHIWAGI, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER  
STEVE TYLER, PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2017**

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS FOR PARK IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND  
UPDATE AND DIRECTION ON PARK STATUE RESTORATION**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Review and discuss next steps for irrigation systems in the Park and receive an update on the status of Park Statues and provide direction to staff on next steps for their restoration.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### *IRRIGATION*

At the September 2017 Park and Recreation Committee meeting, staff notified the Committee that there had been a recent loss of 4 mature trees in the park, including Alders and pines. The trees were removed by West Coast Arborists (WCA) as part of a work order. The Committee was concerned that the health of the trees was compromised by a poor irrigation system and many years of drought.

Even though the removed trees had been originally planted and raised in the Park without the aid of a dedicated, timed irrigation system, it was felt that the trees would have fared better during the previous 5 years of drought with a dedicated watering system. The Committee inquired as to the current status and design of the Park's irrigation system and asked for an assessment of how many trees in the Park have actual systems upon which they rely. Staff responded that there were indeed very few trees in the Park that have dedicated, timed irrigation systems and that the system in the Park is not that reliable in its entirety.

Newly planted trees are typically "hand watered" during their first few summers until they become established. Once established, they are watered once a month thereafter. Staff maintains a record of watering. The Committee inquired as to whether it would be beneficial to bring in a Park

Irrigation Planner with expertise on urban forestry to assist with the assessment, design, and eventual upgrade of the Park irrigation systems.

#### *WATER FOUNTAIN AND DIANA STATUE*

In August 2015, the historic Park Fountain that is placed near the entrance of the park was toppled over by an unknown vandal. Investigation into the damage was not fruitful. The Fountain is made of a metal alloy and suffered some damage. The design of the fountain was such that it could be easily toppled and broken. Its weight is such that it is dangerous to anyone who might be in the path if it toppled. After the vandalism, the Fountain was not reset due to advanced issues with rust/breakage.

In February 2016, following the installation of the new Event Garden at the park, staff attempted to install the Diana Statue in a place of prominence on her new pedestal. As staff carried the bubble-wrapped statue from the park vehicle to the new pedestal, the Statue literally crumbled apart from its own weight in their hands.

Both the Water Fountain and Diana Statue are currently in storage awaiting repairs.

#### **ANALYSIS**

##### *IRRIGATION*

In 2010, the Park's main water lines were replaced and a second well was added to the Park's irrigation system. At that same time, the irrigation system in the play field was upgraded and a new state-of-the-art irrigation controller system was added. The installation of the new system(s) has proven beneficial to the Park. Since 2010, the Water Tower area has also received upgraded irrigation, as well as the new Little League Field and Event Garden.

Little has been done, however, to address water needs for existing mature trees in the Park. The most prominent mature trees in the Park are the perimeter trees, such as the Redwoods and Oaks along the North Meadow, the Deodar Cedars, Giant Sequoias, and Redwoods along the frontage of the Park, and the Oaks along the west perimeter (railroad tracks). These are mostly mature trees that have survived in the Park for more than 50 years. Staff suggests that in addition to drought and irrigation issues, other factors contribute to a tree's demise. Age, disease and pathogens all affect the continued health and viability of trees. There are many trees in the Park that have survived 50+ years without a direct irrigation system. Also, irrigation of mature trees must be done very cautiously, especially when these trees are accustomed to not receiving much irrigation during certain times of the year and have adapted to this climatic factor through their entire lives. Often times, adding this type of water to an established tree can do as much harm as it can good if not done correctly.

However, if Council supports a standalone irrigation system for these trees, staff suggests that the project begin with a Request for Proposal to find the appropriate expertise for evaluation and assessment.

Another factor to consider is the proposed Water Capture Facility Project. With the potential to add a Water Capture Facility into the Park, there may be infrastructure changes and opportunities that arise in connection to the project. These include, but are not limited to, changes in the current irrigation system, the potential for reclaimed water use and other infrastructure improvements. *Staff recommends that the current hand watering practice continue until more details surrounding the Water Capture Facility Project are known.*

#### *WATER FOUNTAIN AND DIANA STATUE*

Both the Water Fountain and Diana Statue have been in the Park since its donation to the Town in the 1960's. The lineage of both of these items can be traced back to the original Elmwood Estate. A resident in Town recently had a historic fountain, complete with statues, renovated at their home on Flood Circle. The fountain/statuary was disassembled and packed away in foam cases and shipped to Washington D.C. There, the items were unpacked and repairs were made to restore the pieces back to their original form and function. The items were then repacked the same way, shipped back to Atherton and reassembled. The fountain is now in perfect working form. This company is the only vendor that staff has been able to find that deals with this type of detailed restoration. The company name is Conservation Solutions and they specialize in this type of work.

During the time the fountain was being reassembled, staff asked the Owner and Senior Conservator Joseph Sembrat if they might take a look at the pieces and see if their restoration was possible, and what the cost would be. Being they were in the area, they supplied us this estimate free of charge:

- Fountain                      \$45,000 - \$50,000
- Diana                            \$45,000 - \$50,000

This work is all inclusive of mobilization, pack fountain or sculpture/unpack/remove basin, transport, strip paint, structural repairs, metalizing, paint, replication of missing pieces, prep and packing for shipping, reset fountain and plumbing or sculpture, report and maintenance plan.

The cost for repairing these pieces is considerable. In the case of the Fountain, the Town has already spent a considerable amount of money on its resting site including a pump, filtration system and water filler. The biggest problem in keeping the Fountain running for staff was/is its immediate condition of rust. During the fountains restoration in 2009, an application of marine grade epoxy paint was added to the bead blasted finish of the fountain (bare metal). This finish began to immediately degrade and required removal and replacement.

The Diana Statue has very serious structural problems. The alloy itself appears to be in a state of degradation. The damage done to the Statue by its own weight is repairable by only the most skilled of conservators.

It is possible that replicas of both of these pieces can be made of either concrete or fiberglass or a combination of both. Though the historic pieces would be lost to time, their application and story could remain intact. As it stands today, the Diana statue has already had some "alterations" that make it less than original and the same can be said for the Fountain.

### **POLICY FOCUS**

Depending on its placement in the Park, the Water Capture Facility may impact trees, turf, irrigation, pathways, and access. If the Council wishes to proceed with an irrigation system analysis, the City Council should consider timing any irrigation analysis and subsequent recommendations and projects in conjunction with details and timing of the Water Capture Facility.

The cost for repairing the Fountain and Statue is considerable. The Council should weigh the historic value of restoration against replica replacement.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The potential cost of a review and assessment of the Park's irrigation system is not known at this time. The estimated cost of the Fountain and Statue Restoration is approximately \$100,000.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

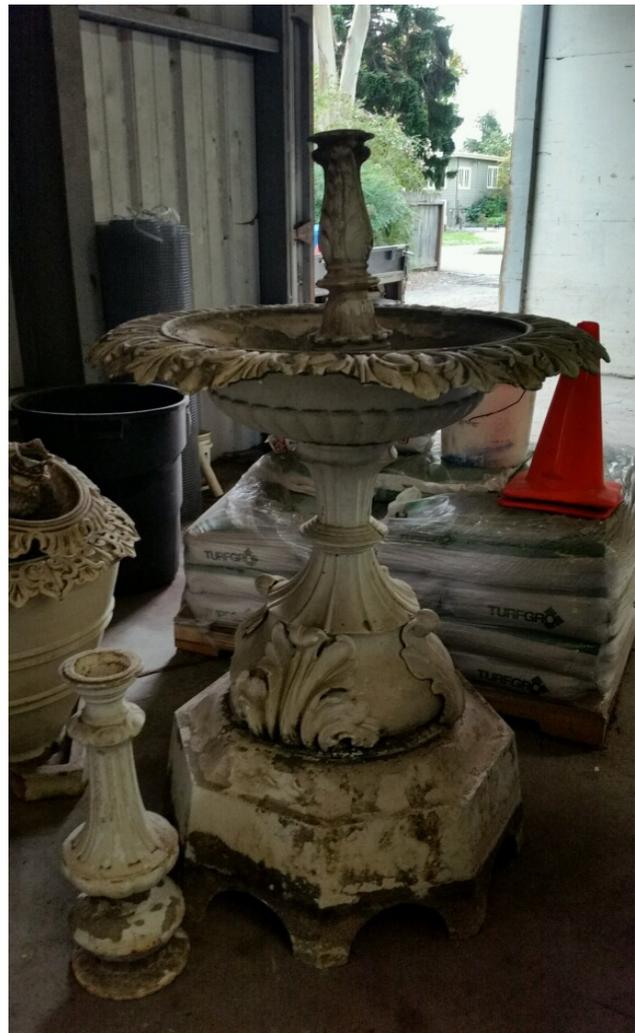
Pics of water fountain and Diana Statue.

# PARK FOUNTAIN



Current condition of base/pedestal (above)

Parts stored in park corp. yard (below)



DIANA STATUE

