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August 10, 2016

Councilmember Todd Gloria  
City Administration Building  
202 C Street MS #10A  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Councilmember Gloria,

On July 18, 2016, the Bankers Hill Community Group conducted a public workshop regarding Olive Street Neighborhood Park to get input for the City's consideration as design work proceeds.

Approximately 50 people, including members of the family that originally donated the land for part of the park, participated in the workshop. No votes were taken, but some clear priorities emerged.

Neighborhood Park – As a neighborhood park, the programming and design of the park should be undertaken to respond to the needs of the neighborhood and be sensitive to the quality of life of the immediately adjacent neighbors.

- Intrusive, bright lighting should be avoided. Low-level landscape and pedestrian lighting should be used to provide both nighttime beauty and safety.
- Uses should be designed to meet the demographics of the neighborhood. Pleasant seating areas, walking paths and picnic spots for an older population would be welcome. Active sports courts are not needed. The park should be a place to relax. Possibly some play equipment for children could work if a need is found.
- Landscaping should be used to provide an attractive perspective for neighbors. Street trees, possibly Canary Island Date Palms for historic context, should be provided along Olive Street.
- No restroom or parking facilities are needed. This will be a walk-to, neighborhood park.
- Shade, whether from trees or tasteful shade structures, should be provided.
- Possibly limited hours for off-leash dogs could be established.



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AIDS Memorial - There is broad support for an AIDS memorial and strong feelings that the memorial deserves an appropriate location where important memorial-related events could be held with hopefully sizeable attendance and sufficient parking to accommodate the attendees. A neighborhood park does not provide a suitable venue and would do the memorial a disservice. The West Mesa of Balboa Park, for example, with extensive parking along Sixth Avenue and Balboa Drive, would be a much better location.

The family representatives at the workshop stated that they were "OK with the memorial on this site if no other location could be found". The West Mesa can be easily found and would be a much more suitable location.

Maple Canyon – The property abuts Maple Canyon, which is the most prominent natural feature of Bankers Hill. Access to the canyon and an observation/overlook area/platform are much needed. The opportunity to provide these should not be squandered. Also, the park should be part of an inviting, pedestrian connection between Maple Canyon and Balboa Park.

Historical Respect - A kiosk, pergola or some other suitable means should be provided to inform park users of the history of the site, including narratives and displays of pictures of the families and the residences that were once on the property. Also, the historic circular driveway should be recognized, enhanced and utilized as a hardscape plaza, possibly being part of the important pedestrian connection between Maple Canyon and Balboa Park.

Public Art - Design of the park should include spaces for public art.

Gardens - Consideration should be given to providing spaces for planter boxes for community garden plots, possibly temporary while still in the planning/design stage. Also, partners, such as garden clubs, should be explored for the installation and maintenance of the gardens and enhanced landscaping.



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Loitering – Good parks attract people and people sometimes cause problems. The City's help is asked for to provide timely maintenance of the park and to enforce regulations regarding littering, noise, loitering and encampments. Perhaps City representatives could attend a future Bankers Hill Community Group meeting to give us pointers for monitoring the park and reporting concerns.

We trust this input will be helpful. Please let us know if there are any questions. We look forward to working with you further on the design and construction of this extremely important neighborhood asset. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Nancy Moors, President  
Bankers Hill Community Group

Cc: Kevin Faulconer, Mayor  
Leo Wilson, Chair Uptown Planners