



Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Park and Recreation Board  
City of San Diego  
David Kinney, Chair

Re: Olive Street Park, Community Vision Plan

Chair Kinney and Board,

The Bankers Hill Community Group (BHCG) supports the Olive Street Park plan presented at Uptown Planners in May 2019, which is based on the prior approved Community Vision Plan (see attached) and does NOT include a regional-focused AIDS Memorial. The city consciously decided not to present the regional memorial component at the Uptown Planners May 2019 presentation, due to their prior February 2018 lack of support for a regional AIDS Memorial in this 0.6 acre pocket park. When the city does move in this direction, a regional memorial proposed to be within this park should be brought back to Uptown Planners for a community presentation and recommendation.

Olive Street Park is not an appropriate location for the San Diego AIDS Memorial because it is a neighborhood pocket park. As such, it will not include parking or restrooms; it is hidden within the Bankers Hill neighborhood at a dead end street (Third Ave/Olive St, please visit). This park cannot accommodate medium let alone large-scale events such as World AIDS day.

Despite the Park Guidelines within the General Plan (table RE-2 attached), which classify this site as a "pocket park" serving the population within a ¼ mile, the City and AIDS Task Force have pursued Olive Street Park as the location for this regional memorial, which then falls into the category of "community cultural facility." The General Plan's Park Guidelines state that a "community cultural facility," such as a memorial that displays more than 8,000 names, should be located in a community park with a minimum of 13 acres (table RE-2).

Given that San Diego has lost more than 8,000 people to the AIDS epidemic, the magnitude and importance of San Diego within the national AIDS narrative is central. San Diego must find a memorial location that is respectful and honors those we have lost. A regional-focused AIDS memorial should be in a prominent and easily accessible location with restrooms and parking as well as the capacity to accommodate large gatherings for events such as World AIDS day.

The BHCG urges the Park and Recreation Board to listen to the community and adopt the Community Vision Plan, as recommended by Uptown Planners in May 2019, WITHOUT a regional memorial, otherwise a community cultural facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amie Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amie Hayes, Chair  
Bankers Hill Community Group  
[www.bankershillcommunity.org](http://www.bankershillcommunity.org)

cc: Councilmember Chris Ward  
cc: Uptown Planners Chair, Soheil Nakhshab

PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE

MAPLE CANYON BELOW

**MAPLE CANYON MEMORIAL OVERLOOK** 7,125 SF 25%

RECLAIMED CITY LAND

BIOSWALE & FUTURE PATH TO MAPLE CANYON

PERIMETER LANDSCAPE SCREENING WITH SECURITY FENCE, ALL SIDES

BIOSWALE / DRY STREAM BED

LARGE EXIST TREES (3) TO REMAIN

EXIST. OFFICE BLDG.

EXIT PATH

BANKERS HILL STORY WALLS & WOODS-MCKEE FAMILY PARK DONORS

ADULT FITNESS AREA & MACHINES

SLOPED GRASS SEATING AREA

LOW WALL (TYP.)

**PLAYGROUND**  
7,350 SF 26%

**OPEN GRASS**  
14,025 SF 49%

EXIST. PEPPER TREE

LARGE OPEN GRASS AREA

SEATING (TYP.)

GAME TABLES

BIKE PARKING

ENTRY GATE & SIGN  
BIKE PARKING

PUBLIC ART / ENTRY SIGN

RECONFIGURED THIRD AVE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

← PED X-ING

# WOODS MC KEE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

THE COMMUNITY BASED VISION PLAN

22 FEB. 2018





Monday, March 12, 2018

Park and Recreation Board  
City of San Diego  
David Kinney, Chair

Re: Olive Street Park, Community Vision Plan

Chair Kinney and Board,

The Bankers Hill Community Group (BHCG) does not support a regional-focused AIDS Memorial located in Olive Street Park (0.6 acre) and are providing an alternative option: the Community Vision Plan (attached) as endorsed and approved by Uptown Planners (11-2-1) at a special meeting on February 22, 2018. The BHCG urges the Park and Recreation Board to listen to the community and adopt the Community Vision Plan.

Olive Street Park is not an appropriate location for the San Diego AIDS Memorial because it is a neighborhood pocket park (at 0.6 acre). As such, it will not include parking or restrooms; it is hidden within the Bankers Hill neighborhood at a dead end street (Third Ave/Olive St, please visit). This park cannot accommodate medium let alone large-scale events such as World AIDS day.

Despite the Park Guidelines within the General Plan (table RE-2 attached), which classify this site as a "pocket park" serving the population within a ¼ mile, the City and AIDS Task Force have pursued Olive Street Park as the location for this regional memorial, falling into the category of a "community cultural facility." The General Plan's Park Guidelines state that a "community cultural facility," such as a memorial that displays more than 8,000 names, should be located in a community park with a minimum of 13 acres (table RE-2).

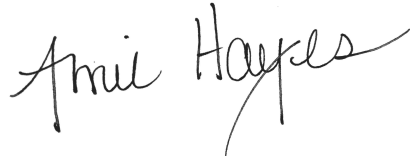
The Community Vision Plan, as recommended by Uptown Planners, is an alternative to the City proposal for a memorial park and illustrates a neighborhood pocket park for users within a ¼ mile. This plan was devised through a BHCG hosted charette in July 2016 (resulting letter attached), upon learning the park was close to being fully funded. The Vision Plan was then presented to the community in both November 2017 and February 2018. Specifically, the open space of this plan meets neighborhood needs and is maximized for optimal multi-use, the hardscape is minimized, and the overlook is a passive area for all. This plan also creates the Maple Canyon Memorial Overlook as an area devoted to memorializing persons and events related to the Bankers Hill neighborhood and its residents, which could include small plaques on benches, walkway tiles or other appropriate elements dedicated to persons or events that relate to all aspects of Bankers Hill history. Additionally, this pocket park helps to address the neighborhood's substantial open space or park deficit.

Given that San Diego has lost more than 8,000 people to the AIDS epidemic, the magnitude and importance of San Diego within the national AIDS narrative is central. San Diego must find a memorial location that is respectful and honors those we have lost. A regional-focused AIDS memorial should be in a prominent and easily accessible location with restrooms and parking as well as the capacity to accommodate large gatherings for events such as World AIDS day.

The BHCG fully supports the need for the San Diego AIDS memorial, with planning that follows a transparent and open public process. However, the location of this memorial is a very important decision and Olive Street Pocket Park is clearly not an appropriate location.

The BHCG requests the Park and Recreation Board endorse and adopt the Uptown Planners' recommendation of the Community Vision Plan for Olive Street Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amie Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Amie Hayes, Chair  
Bankers Hill Community Group