



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** November 1, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of a Request from the Lions Club to Permit Recognition of Sponsors for the Braille Trail on each of the Braille Panels

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss and provide direction for the request from the Lions Club to permit recognition of sponsors for the Braille Trail on each of the Braille panels.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There is no fiscal impact on the City's general fund associated with this request.

### **BACKGROUND:**

During the March 1, 2005 City Council meeting, the Council approved a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission to install 12, 36-inch tall pedestals in the north end of Polliwog Park. Each pedestal describes the history of Polliwog in both Braille and English text. The request for this project came from the Lions Club and is attached (ATTACHMENT A). The Lions Club agreed to pay for all costs associated with the development of the Braille panels.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The City Council approved the request from the Lions Club and the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission during their March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Since the March meeting, the Lions Club had the 12 Braille panels built through donations they received and submitted them to staff for installation (ATTACHMENT B).

When staff received the panels concerns were raised about the recognition for donation of the panel (each panel cost approximately \$330.00) at the bottom of each panel. After going through the "Tree and Bench" donation policy and Blu Moon marketing plan, staff had concerns that such recognitions were not in keeping with what the community and Council had considered appropriate.

The Lions Club believes that the proposal that was approved by the City gave them permission to recognize donors in the manner they did. In the section termed *Financing* in Attachment A, it states "The Lions Club budget of 2004-05 includes an item supporting the path. In addition, fund raisers might be held; and local businesses might be solicited for donations to finance individual pedestals to include plaques identifying their contributions."

Staff had believed that the words “to include plaques” mean a separate individual plaque. In addition, the conceptual drawings contained in Attachment ‘A’ do not identify any recognition. Staff believes that the outcome of the recent marketing plan for the City meant that the general parameter for donated items to the City were to try to leave the donated items unaltered and uncommercialized.

The Lions Club is appealing staff’s interpretation to the City Council.

If Council denies the appeal from the Lions Club, staff can cleanly cut the recognition text off the bottom of each panel and not affect the pedestals. Staff could then work with the Lions Club on another form of recognition that is more in keeping with the recent discussions on the subject.

- Attachment A - March 1<sup>st</sup> City Council Staff Report and Request from Lions Club
- Attachment B - Picture of Braille Panel