



Agenda Item # _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

DATE: March 1, 2005

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Recommendation from the Cultural Arts Commission to Place the Chad Keller Memorial Bench in Parque Culiacan

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the recommendation from the Cultural Arts Commission to place the Chad Keller Memorial Bench in Parque Culiacan.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The Keller family has agreed to pay for all costs associated with this request.

BACKGROUND:

During the October 16, 2001 City Council meeting, Manhattan Beach resident Mrs. Lisa Keller, wife of Chad Keller, approached the City Council and requested permission to install a bench in Parque Culiacan in memory of her husband who was killed during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Chad was a passenger on American Airlines Flight #77 which terrorists hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon. Chad was involved with Hughes/Boeing satellite launch program and worked on top-secret projects for the Department of Defense. At the time of his death, Chad was a lead propulsion engineer and a project manager with Boeing Satellite Systems in El Segundo, California. Because of the nature of this particular business pertaining to national security, in essence, Chad lost his life working for our country. For this reason, Chad was posthumously awarded the Defense of Freedom Medal. This medal is the highest honor a civilian can receive – equivalent to the Purple Heart.

Chandler “Chad” Keller grew up in Manhattan Beach and attended Center School in Manhattan Beach and Bishop Montgomery High School. He was athletic, loved the outdoors, especially surfing.

The City Council requested that the Keller family work with City staff and the Cultural Arts Commission on a design and implementation process.

DISCUSSION

The Keller family met with the Cultural Arts Commission during the November 21, 2001 Commission meeting. The Commission was in the process of finalizing the Master Plan for Public Art donations and suggested that the family take time to define their request and submit a proposal.

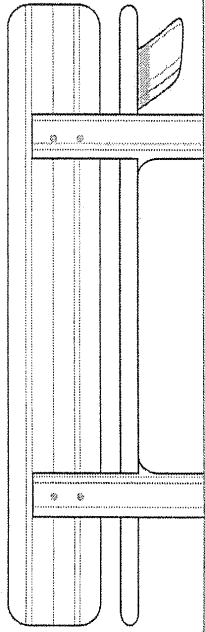
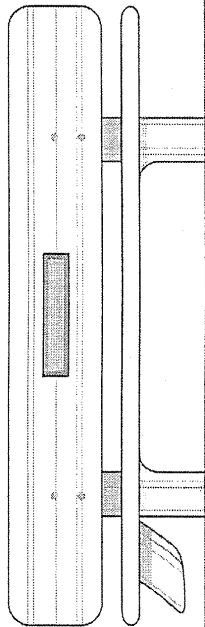
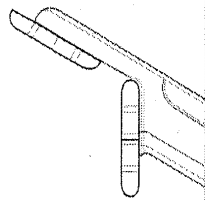
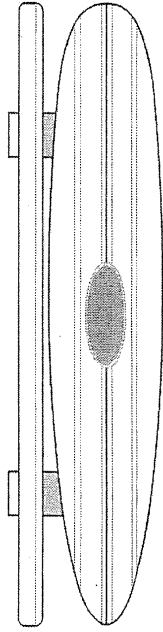
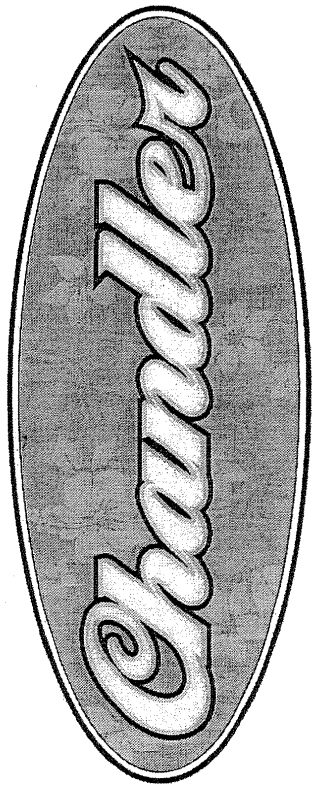
Mr. Keller presented the family's proposal at the September 14, 2003 Cultural Arts Commission meeting, requesting the possibility of donating a sculpture or an art bench to the City of Manhattan Beach in honor of their son. He expressed the idea that they wanted the memorial not be just for Chad but it should have a broad appeal for all the victims of 9/11 and that the fight for freedom is not over but will continue. The Commission discussed the text and several options regarding the proposal, including possible locations and inclusion with the 9/11 memorial project. The Commission requested that the Keller family present conceptual designs for a bench to be placed in Parque Culiacan at a future meeting.

Staff and the Commission received four conceptual designs and draft text for the bench during the September 2004 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. The concepts were reviewed and discussed with Keller family members with minor changes suggested for both the bench design and plaque text.

Mr. and Mrs. Keller met with staff and the Commission at the January 27, 2005 meeting and presented a design and text based on the Commission's suggested changes.

After a lengthy discussion, the Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the design of the bench and text for the plaque to be placed in Parque Culiacan (attachments A, B, C).

- Attachments: A. Bench Design
B. Site Map
C. Text



CHANDLER MEMORIAL BENCH
Highland Ave and 26th St Manhattan Beach CA. 90266

Section Elevation,
Overhead Plan:
Memorial Bench and
memorial plaque

Date:
Revision
Revision
Revision
Revision
Revision

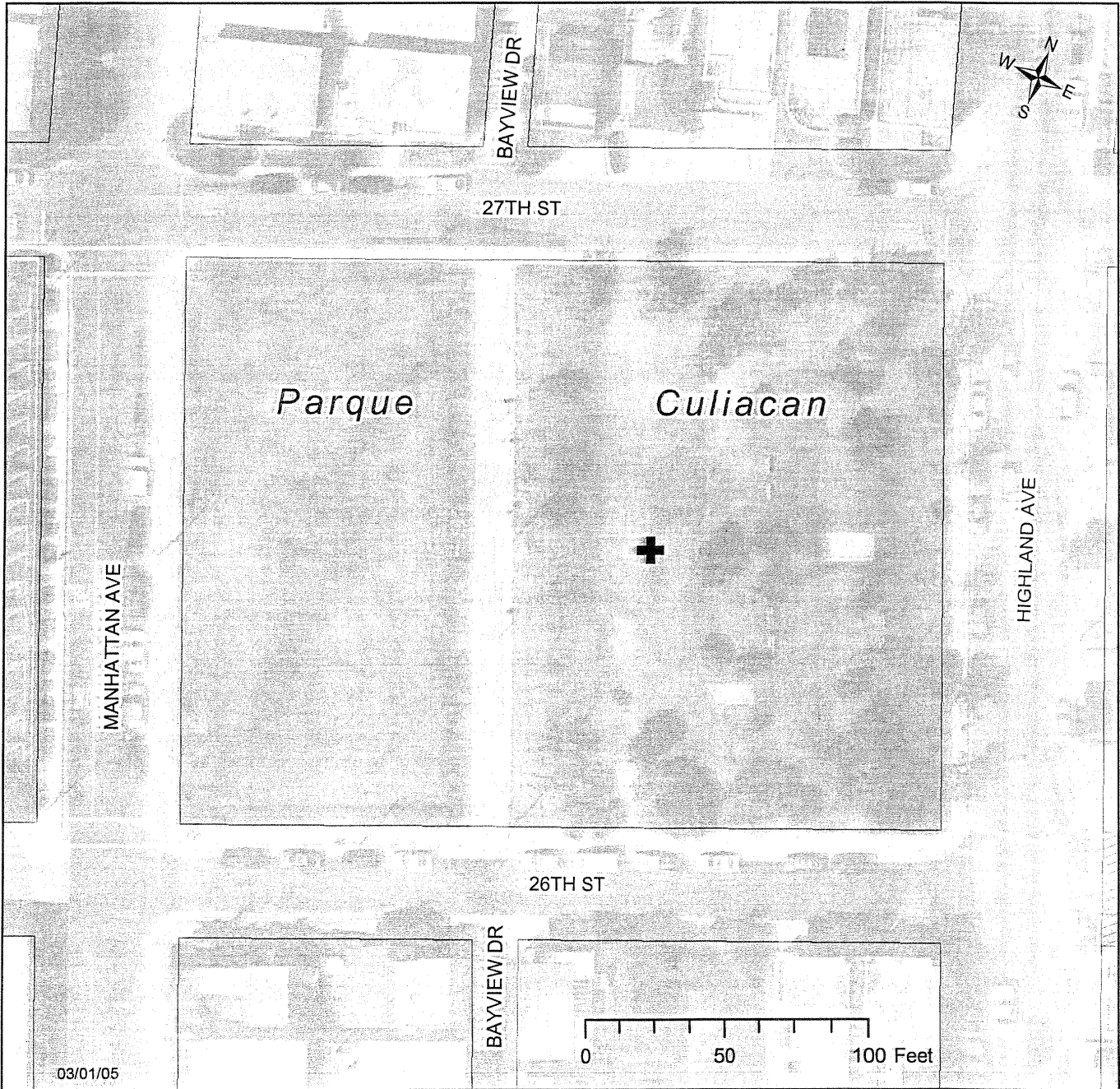
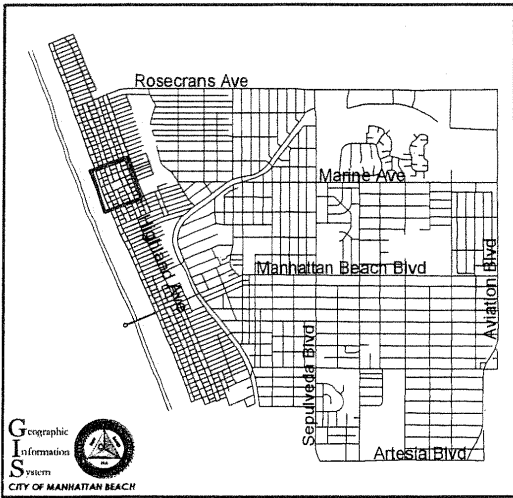
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CHANDLER BENCH 1/2" = 1'

Proposed Location of the Chad Keller Memorial Bench



Relax, Reflect, Remember

This commemorative bench honors the memory of Chandler “Chad” Keller, a Manhattan Beach resident and a U.S. Defense of Freedom Medal recipient, who lost his life along with thousands of Americans at the hands of terrorists on 9/11/01.

Dedicated to Chad Keller (10-08-71 – 9/11/01) by the Manhattan Beach City Council and the Friends and Family of Chad Keller.

September 11, 2005

