

Memorandum

Public Works Department



To: Mayor and City Council

From: Craig Hayton, Parks Manager

Through: Don Bessler, Public Works Director

Date: October 27, 2016

Subject: November 3, 2016 Work Study Session – Tempe Town Lake Pedestrian Bridge - James Elmore Bridge Naming Request, and Design and Location Concept

The Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board (PRGDB) reviewed a proposal with two elements to it, a naming request for the west end of Tempe Town Lake to be called the James Elmore Bridge and a proposal to enhance the area with additional landscaping and interpretive historical plaques. David Scheatzle, with the Rio Salado Architecture Foundation, submitted the naming request to the City Clerk on August 31, 2016. James Elmore was the founding dean of the ASU College of Architecture, established in 1964. According to the request, he was instrumental in coordinating and implementing the Rio Salado Project, which paved the way for today's development district and made Tempe Town Lake possible.

The PRGDB Advisory Board considered the naming request at its September 21, 2016 meeting, Agenda Item 6. Following review and due discussion, the naming rights request was recommended, seconded and approved unanimously with the condition that staff return to the Board to inform them on the overall design and location of the installation and further discuss the concept of the interpretive proposal to obtain the Board's recommendation prior to City Council's final approval of the resolution.

The Rio Salado Architecture Foundation has provided a design concept and location for a plaque dedicated to James Elmore. The group has also submitted an additional interpretive concept to coincide with the 50 year anniversary of the ASU School of Architecture vision project, which occurs in March 2017. The proposed concept includes four additional plaques on the west end of the pedestrian bridge and new landscaping in the area to soften the hardscape. The plaques would interpret the four historical eras of the Rio Salado Town Lake: The ASU College of Architecture, Valley Forward Association, The Rio Salado Development District, and Development by the Riverside Cities along Salt River. All five plaques and landscaping would be financed through fundraising efforts with no up-front costs to the City.

Staff is seeking Council direction on whether to move the naming request forward for formal council consideration as prescribed by your adopted process. Separately we are seeking direction if Council would like to refer the additional interpretive concept back to the PRGDB for input and review and for their recommendation.

Attachments:

Naming Request Letter dated August 20, 2016 and reference letters in support of the naming request

Proposed Conceptual Site Plan

Proposed text for the five plaques

PowerPoint presentation