

August 8, 2024

City of Costa Mesa
Public Works Department
77 Fair Drive
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Attention: Rob Ryan

Re: Request to donate tree and plaque

Dear Mr. Ryan:

I am writing to request the opportunity to donate a coastal live oak tree and memorial plaque in memory of my late colleague, Moses Wilbur Johnson, at a location in Canyon Park. If possible, I would like the tree to be planted in the meadow, where it could provide shade to the picnic table and bench there.

Moses Wilbur Johnson was born December 12, 1957 in Downey, California, the youngest child of George and Mary Joyce Johnson. Moses attended Western High School, where he ran track and field for the Pioneers and was team captain in his senior year. Moses Johnson and Genny Sabian were married in 1980. They have two children, a son, Perry, and a daughter, Isabel. Moses attended law school and graduated from the University of San Diego in 1983.

Moses began his law career in Guam, Genny's family's home. After two years as a law clerk in the Superior Court of Guam, Moses was admitted to the Guam Bar. Moses and Genny moved back to Southern California, and Moses was admitted to the California Bar in 1985 and worked in private practice for several years.

In 1994, as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Anaheim, I had a role in hiring Moses as Deputy City Attorney, one of the best decisions I have made in my professional life. Moses was an excellent lawyer and an engaging personality whom all his colleagues respected and enjoyed working with. Years after I retired, Moses was promoted to Assistant City Attorney in 2007. He excelled in that position until retiring in 2023, after 29 years of dedicated public service.

Moses died on June 19, 2024 and is survived by his wife, Genny Johnson, and his son, Perry, and daughter, Isabel, and daughters-in-law, Liz Johnson and Elena Jaramillo and grandson, Theo Roth Johnson and numerous other loving family members.

I have lived in Costa Mesa since 1986 and have served 8 years as Assistant City Attorney and two terms as a Planning Commissioner. I would like to have a memorial tree near to my home and where others may enjoy it, to honor a fine lawyer and a good man.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor M. Egan

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COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT	POLICY NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	PAGE
ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION OF DONATION TO CITY PARKS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES AND CIRCLE OF SERVICE RECOGNITION	800-4	6-17-02 12/5/02 Rev. 07/13/04	1 of 4

BACKGROUND

The City of Costa Mesa has, over a period of many years, received donations of time, money, materials, and park furniture/equipment, as well as requests for the placement of memorial plaques at City parks and public facilities. No formal process has existed for the acceptance of same, which has led to a disjointed, confusing practice. Due to the lack of a consistently applied policy, there are few records available to substantiate the basis upon which donations and/or the placement of memorial plaques were accepted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent procedure for the acceptance and recognition of donations to City parks and public facilities and requests for memorial plaques and Circle of Service recognition.

POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Costa Mesa to encourage donations by individuals, civic groups, and businesses for the purpose of improving City parks and public facilities. Such donations, including the placement of memorial plaques and volunteer efforts for clean-up projects, shall be accomplished in a consistent fashion in accordance with this policy. Any donation of equipment, park furniture, or plantings that include a request for a donor or memorial plaque shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration or approval before installation. Circle of Service nominations will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the City Council. Financial donations or payments for donated items can be made to the City of Costa Mesa or the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The Foundation Chair will acknowledge the donation in writing for those donations received by the Costa Mesa Community Foundation.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**TREE DONATIONS AND THE PLACEMENT OF DONOR OR MEMORIAL PLAQUES**

1. All donations of trees or other planting shall be in accordance with the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and/or comply with the approved park-planting palette. Donated trees shall be a minimum 15-gallon size.
2. All requests for placement of plaques memorializing individuals shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval before installation. Memorial plaques for

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pets are not allowed within City Parks. However, trees and/or park furniture may be donated in memory of a pet without a plaque.

3. Donor and memorial plaques shall be circular, bronze with a maximum size of six (6) inches in diameter. All plaques shall have standard wording to include “Donated By”, “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of”. Donors are responsible for the acquisition and cost of the plaque. The City will incur the cost of installation.
4. All donor and memorial plaques for tree donations shall be located in areas specifically designated for this purpose at each park. In the event an area has not been designated for this purpose, plaques may be installed on concrete pads at the base of donated trees. Plaques will be installed flush with the ground for ease of maintenance and liability purposes.

ADOPT-A-BENCH PROGRAM AND DONATION OF PARK FURNITURE

1. Donated park benches or picnic tables shall be of the type specified in the approved Streetscape and Median Development Standards.
2. The donated park benches or picnic tables will be used to replace old benches and picnic tables at existing locations or placed at new locations that are already Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. The Maintenance Services Manager will give the donor the choice of existing locations with approval of the ultimate location by the Maintenance Services Manager.
3. Donor is responsible for the cost of the bench or picnic table. Upon receipt of payment, City staff will acquire the furniture and install it.
4. Donor or Memorial plaques shall be circular, bronze with a maximum size of six (6) inches in diameter. Plaques will be imbedded flush in the concrete pad near the park bench and/or picnic table and are not allowed to be attached to the bench. All plaques shall have standard wording to include, “Donated By”, “In Memory Of”, or “In Honor Of”.

ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM

1. The Adopt-A-Park Program is open to interested individuals, businesses, or groups for the clean up and beautification of the City’s parks. Adopt-A-Park events are limited to half or one-half day events for litter pick-up, painting and planting projects.

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2. The participating individual or group is responsible for providing gloves and tools, such as paintbrushes, trowels, shovels, etc.
3. The City will provide paint, planting materials, trash bags, the removal of filled trash bags, and a staff person for supervision at the event.
4. All participants will be required to complete and sign a Registration and Waiver and Release of Liability form as provided in the application package. Applications are subject to review by the Maintenance Services Manager and approval by the Public Services Director.

CIRCLE OF SERVICE

1. The Circle of Service has been established in Lions Park to commemorate citizens who have provided significant service to the City; made an extraordinary contribution to the City; or contributed to the history of Costa Mesa.
2. The nominee must have been deceased a minimum of one (1) year prior to being nominated and considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
3. The nominee must have been a resident of Costa Mesa for a minimum of ten (10) years.
4. The nominee must have been involved in community service for a minimum of seven (7) consecutive years or have given their life in the service of the nation or community.
5. The application shall be completed by a family member, a member of the community, a member of a non-profit organization, or someone from the business community. If service to an organization is identified, corresponding written support from the organization served by the applicant is required.
6. The applicant is responsible for the cost of the plaque and payment must be submitted with the application.
7. Circle Of Service plaques shall be circular, bronze and be twelve (12) inches in diameter. All plaques shall have standard wording to include "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of".
8. Plaques shall be installed at Lions Park for candidates approved by City Council once a year in July.

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PROCEDURE TO NOMINATE CIRCLE OF SERVICE HONOREES

1. Application forms are available at the Recreation Division Counter. Submit the completed application to the Recreation Division, City Hall, 3rd Floor for review by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council to deny or approve an application. Commission meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Agenda items require three weeks to prepare and mail for each meeting. Therefore, information must be received during the first week of the month in order to be placed on the agenda for that month.
2. If the City Council approves the request, the plaque will be purchased by the requesting party and installed by City staff. Staff will also arrange for a dedication ceremony for Circle of Service inductees and notification of all interested parties.
3. The City assumes no liability for the replacement or repair of plaques, but will assume responsibility for normal maintenance.

PROCEDURE TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL DONATIONS

1. Any donation of a strictly financial nature shall be submitted to the City Council or the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The donation shall be placed in a special account for future use.
2. Donors may specify that the money be used for a specific project or for purchase of a specific item.
3. If the donor does not identify the donation for a specific project, it shall be used as deemed appropriate by the City Council or the Foundation Board.
4. The Foundation Chair shall acknowledge all donations to the Foundation in writing.

Canyon Park Memorial Tree Donation

Proposed Planting Location

