



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Keis and Members of the City Council

FROM: Bryce Shearen, Parks & Recreation/Community Services Manager

DATE: June 7, 2019

RE: Firefighters Memorial

BACKGROUND

The Firefighters Historical Trail was donated in 2005 to honor the many firefighters that generously volunteer their time to protect the lives and property of the community. The trail utilizes a segment of the Water Works Right-of-Way, providing a scenic connection from Centerville Road to Spooner Park and Little Canada Road at McMenemy Street. The trail is flanked by grasslands and forest openings that provide great opportunities for wildlife viewing and native habitat. The trail is bordered on the north by Gervais Creek and is wooded on both sides.

The trail entrance monument sign off of Centerville Road is in need of major repair/replacement. The City budgeted \$6,000 for the repair of the sign in 2019. The Little Canada Fire Department (LCFD) expressed some interest in helping fund the sign repair, but was also interested in a more comprehensive project for creating a Firefighter Memorial area that would honor members of LCFD. As you may recall, there are memorial benches along that trail that honor past Little Canada Fire Chiefs. A committee of LCFD members was formed and they started the discussion of building a memorial and funding the project. With the design and location of the memorial, it made sense to instead of replacing the current monument sign with something similar, to replace it with a sign that flows with the memorial and invites trail or memorial users to continue their experience.

The LCFD contracted with a professional consultant to help with the design, and after almost a year of planning the memorial design, the LCFD has come up with a draft concept design. The memorial would be within the existing area between the upper and lower parking lot of the fire department. The main area of the design will be a concrete Maltese cross area and have a concave Corten Steel wall. The Corten Steel is popular amongst firefighter memorials due to the natural weathering of the wall. On the Corten wall, steel plaques honoring LCFD members that have retired from the department will be affixed to the wall (this will allow for an uncomplicated way to affix future plaques). Landscaping will be done throughout the area and include a bench. Staff has reviewed the design for any maintenance issues and has been involved in the design discussions along the way.

To keep the memorial flowing to and from the Firefighters Historical Trail, a similar Corten wall was designed on the north side of the parking lot to replace the current monument sign. This Corten wall will have the same language, "Firefighters Historical Trail" engraved into the

Corten. This may also provide an opportunity to illuminate the sign from either the front or the back depending on the cost. With the curvature of the wall, this would essentially be the new “entrance” sign of the park and the old monument sign would not be replaced.

The Little Canada Fire Department is requesting to construct a firefighter’s memorial on the city-owned property, replace the existing sign with the new Corten wall as the trail identification, and have the City put the \$6,000 that was budgeted for the replacement of the old monument sign towards the new trail identification Corten wall.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

The City budgeted \$6,000 in the General Capital Improvement Fund (400) in 2019 for the repair of the current monument sign. The Little Canada Fire Department has pledged to pay for the rest of the project including consulting fees.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of constructing a firefighter memorial, replacement of the current Firefighter Historical Trail monument sign with the proposed Corten sign, and using up to \$6,000 for the Corten wall and immediate features to the north of the parking lot to identify the trail entrance.

ATTACHMENTS

- Current Monument Sign Pictures
- Location Map
- Draft Firefighter Memorial Concept Design