



Item No. 3 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

FROM: ROBERT OVADIA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

DATE: JULY 18, 2018

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE
DIANA STATUE**

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and provide direction on the disposition of the Diana Statue.

BACKGROUND

The Diana Statue has been in the Park since its donation to the Town in the 1960's. The lineage of the statue can be traced back to the original Elmwood Estate. In February 2016, following the installation of the new Event Garden at the park, staff attempted to install the Diana Statue in a place of prominence on her new pedestal. As staff carried the bubble-wrapped statue from the park vehicle to the new pedestal, the Statue literally crumbled apart from its own weight in their hands.

On November 15, 2017, the Council received a report indicating that the Diana Statue has very serious structural problems, with the alloy itself appearing to be in a state of degradation, and that the damage done to the Statue is repairable by only the most skilled of conservators. Staff presented a repair estimate of \$45,000 - \$50,000. At that time, the Council elected to hold off on the repairs.

ANALYSIS

On June 2, 2018, The Lindenwood Homes Association submitted a letter to the Town indicating their desire to restore the Diana Statue (Attachment 1). The Lindenwood Homes Association (LHA) is offering to raise the required funds and supervise the restoration with the condition that the statue be placed in the Lindenwood neighborhood. The preferred location, as indicated by the LHA is within Town right-of-way, in the island located at Flood Circle/Linden Avenue (Attachment 2).

LHA has historic photographs showing the statue in the Flood Estate, and indicates that the Floods may have gifted to the Holbrooks, or that the Holbooks may have purchased the statue from the Floods. Additional photos of the statue are provided in Attachment 3.

Marion Oster, LHA Director and President of the Atherton Heritage Association assisted in the previous statue restoration in 1999 and would be coordinating the effort on behalf of the LHA.

Staff has reviewed the island at Flood Circle/Linden Avenue and agree that the island can accommodate the statue.

Without the support of the LHA, or other contributions, the statue would remain in the Holbrook-Palmer Park corporation yard until such time as the Town has funds to restore the statue.

POLICY FOCUS

The Council's policy discussion should focus on acceptance of LHA's donation offer and if the statue should be located in Holbrook Palmer Park or if the statue may be relocated to the Lindenwood neighborhood.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact associated with this item will depend on the direction of the Council regarding the policy and the type of fencing desired.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

This item ___ has or X has not been before a Town Committee or Commission.

- Audit/Finance Committee (meets every other month)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (meets as needed)
- Civic Center Advisory Committee (meets as needed)
- Environmental Programs Committee (meets every other month)
- Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)
- Planning Commission (meets each month)
- Rail Committee (meets every other month)
- Transportation Committee (meets every other month)
- Tree Committee (meets each month)

ATTACHMENTS

- ATTACHMENT 1 - Letter from Lindenwood Homes Association
- ATTACHMENT 2 - Island at Flood Circle/Linden Avenue
- ATTACHMENT 3 - Photos of Diana Statue

THE LINDENWOOD HOMES ASSOCIATION

Est. 1945

P.O Box 724, Menlo Park, CA 94026

June 2, 2018

Atherton Town Council

George Rodericks, Town Manager

Since the Council has decided not to repair the Diana statue that was damaged at Holbrook Palmer Park and is just sitting in the corporation yard, the Lindenwood Homes Association has voted to pursue the restoration of the historic J.W. Fiske statue.

1. We would raise the money and supervise the restoration
2. We have pictures showing the statue in the Flood Estate. She could be a duplicate statue, have been purchased by the Holbrooks from the Flood Estate auction or she could have been a gift from the Floods to the Holbrooks. We do not know which was the case.
3. The statue would be placed on the Flood Circle/Linden Avenue island in Lindenwood. Since she would be on the public right of way, she would be owned by the Town of Atherton but maintained by the Lindenwood Homes Association. (This is the case for other artifacts in the right of way).

We have not looked into cost estimates but we would like to see this historic statue restored.

Sincerely,

Marion E. Oster
LHA Director





