



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM NO. H.2
09/26/2023

SUBJECT: Former Davis Camp Site Historical Display

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

STAFF: Darin Gale, Assistant City Manager
Abraham Salinas, Senior Analyst

TITLE/RECOMMENDATION

Continue to collaborate with East Contra County Historical Society to design an interpretive historical display that recognizes the significance of the former Davis Camp and its contribution to the history of Brentwood on or near the former Davis Camp property and return with draft layout and design for Council consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impacted associated with this project at this time.

BACKGROUND

On June 13, 2023, the City Council authorized the allocation of staff time and resources in response to a request from Vice Mayor Susannah Meyer. The request pertains to the installation of a commemorative plaque at a site of the former Davis Camp, situated near the southeast intersection of Brentwood Blvd and Sunset Road.

Originally acquired by the City's former redevelopment agency, the Davis Camp property at 7030 Brentwood Blvd was initially purchased to remediate a blighted area. In October 2020, the City declared the property as surplus. Following the dissolution of redevelopment agencies, the City is required to sell all properties previously under the purview of the redevelopment agency, including Davis Camp. A segment of this property has been earmarked for the future expansion of Brentwood Blvd, a project for which the City acquired the necessary land in 2022. The existing building on the property will be demolished, with a contract for this purpose expected to be presented to the City Council for consideration by the first quarter of 2024.

In collaboration with the East Contra Costa Historical Society (ECCHS) and its volunteers, a proposal has been made to acknowledge the historical importance of Davis Camp to the community of Brentwood. Subsequent to the City Council's



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authorization, meetings were held with ECCHS to outline an appropriate course of action.

Based on these discussions, it is proposed to initiate the design and installation of a historical display that will honor the historical significance of Davis Camp, as well as other camps in the area. The display is anticipated to feature between two to five interpretive displays and, if feasible, may also include shade trees and benches. The content for these displays will be prepared by ECCHS and will focus on Davis Camp, its residents, and the broader historical context of camps in the area, emphasizing Brentwood's rich agricultural heritage.

Although the precise location for this historical display is yet to be finalized, accessibility is planned to be from the adjacent Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail and Marsh Creek Regional Trail. Enclosed are examples of interpretive signs from Sungold Park and a site map indicating the proposed location for the historical display.

Prior to the demolition of the existing building, ECCHS will be granted access to the property to identify any items that could be preserved for display at the museum. Staff is also proposing that existing trees on the property be removed during the demolition process. Discussions with ECCHS have revealed that these trees, with the exception of a single eucalyptus tree, hold no historical significance to Davis Camp. Unfortunately, this eucalyptus tree will also need to be removed to facilitate future redevelopment, although it is hoped that a cutting from the tree can be utilized by ECCHS for museum purposes.

As part of this future agenda request the City Council requested information regarding the current General Plan Designation (GPD) and Zoning for the former Davis Camp property. The GPD is Brentwood Blvd Specific Plan and the land use designation is General Commercial as defined in the specific plan. The installation of the proposed interpretive signs would not be inconsistent with the land use or zoning designations. Staff is looking for the City Council to make a motion to continue with the current process as noted below and provide any additional direction.

Purpose – Establish a public place to highlight the historical significance of Davis Camp to the history of Brentwood.

Location – On or immediately adjacent to former Davis Camp property and accessible from Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail and Marsh Creek Regional Trail.



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Amenities – Two to five interpretive panels, hardscape, benches and shade trees.

Design – Similar to existing interpretative signage at Sungold Park. Historical information and photos to be provided by East Contra Costa Historical Society

Size – Between 250 and 750 square feet.

Partners – East Contra Costa Historical Society

Next Steps – Council to consider final location and design options within the early next year.

Construction – To be determined after location, design and layout are approved by City Council.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Not Applicable.

PREVIOUS ACTION

Previous Action by the City Council is included on Attachment 1.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Not Applicable.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Action
2. Example Historical Displays
3. Proposed Location for Historical Display
4. Brief History of Davis Camp