



5750 Grant Avenue * Carmichael, California 95608-3744
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January 9, 2014

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Carmichael CA 95608

Dear _____,

The following is a summary of the input we received from focus groups and individual interviews over the last several months to help us decide how to approach the renovation and funding of Carmichael Park. More than 75 community leaders like yourself gave us their advice during that process. Thank you for participating in that important and successful effort.

Out of that exercise came many very useful comments and recommendations that included:

- Carmichael Park is a great asset that can again be a needed, central focal point for our community;
- The Park is tired and worn and needs significant improvements. One good initial step is the fact the County is going to improve that intersection at Grant and Fair Oaks very soon;
- It is understood that the County does not have sufficient funds to cover the capital upgrades that are needed for the Park ;
- No improvements will be of value unless the park is made more safe and free from crime and loitering. Park rangers and improved security for the Park are the first requirements;
- It would be nice to rebuild the pool and provide the added support for our community youth, but raising \$5-7 million for a pool from private donations would be a difficult at this time, so a splash feature would be fine until more funds can be raised;
- Asking the community to impose a small fee on their properties to cover the many aspects of the Park improvement should be considered before doing a major fund raising effort;
- A Benefit Assessment District should be considered. If the Assessment District is favorable then maybe parks might have a better chance raising a smaller additional amount from major donors to cover the costs of a community pool.

Ron Greenwood
Chief Financial
Officer

Ken Hall
Board Member

Gary Hursh
Board Member

Mike Koerner
Secretary

Paul Pennington
Board Member

Barbara Safford
Board Member

Peter Tateishi
Chief Executive
Officer

- The Park serves many different community interests – from the tennis courts to the baseball diamonds; from the band shell to the dog park; from yoga classes to community classes. All of those interests should be given priority in a Park improvement plan because more of the community will use them than would use a pool, at least at the moment.

While we heard many additional comments, these were at the core of the discussions. Based on these recommendations we are setting the idea of a Community Pool fund raising campaign aside for the moment and are considering a Benefit Assessment District first to provide the many needed improvements to the Park in accordance with a Master Plan that is currently being developed by the community of Carmichael. The assessment will be an annual fee of about \$44 per parcel that should give us bonding capacity of \$4.3 - \$4.5 million in Capital Improvements, plus adding increased maintenance and Park Rangers to provide needed park security. Our hope is to have a mail-in ballot election by March of 2014. We will need a simple majority approval of the property owners in the District to support the annual fee being imposed on all property parcels.

We need your help in supporting the educational components for this campaign. We are starting the process now to raise funds by the end of January and we would be grateful for your help in accomplishing this goal. Please consider making a \$1,000, \$500 or \$250 donation to the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Foundation which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Your donation will help us educate the community on the benefits of an assessment that will bring the necessary improvements and security to our parks. If you would like more information, please let us know. We also would be pleased to respond to any other questions. If you would like to visit with us please call the District Office at 916-485-5322 and one of us will return your call.

Thank you again for your counsel, support and interest in the future of our community.

Sincerely,



Carmichael Recreation and Park District
Foundation Board