



GRASS VALLEY

Historical Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 4:00 PM
Council Chambers, Grass Valley City Hall | 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California
Telephone: (530) 274-4310 - Fax: (530) 274-4399
E-Mail: info@cityofgrassvalley.com Web Site: www.cityofgrassvalley.com

AGENDA

Any person with a disability who requires accommodations to participate in this meeting should telephone the City Clerk's office at (530)274-4390, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to make a request for a disability related modification or accommodation.

MEETING NOTICE

Historical Commission welcomes you to attend the meetings electronically or in person at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 125 E. Main St., Grass Valley, CA 95945. Regular Meetings are scheduled at 4:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Your interest is encouraged and appreciated.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit public comments via voicemail at (530) 274-4390 and email to public@cityofgrassvalley.com. Comments will be reviewed and distributed before the meeting if received by 9 am. Comments received after that will be addressed during the item and/or at the end of the meeting. The commission will have the option to modify their action on items based on comments received. Action may be taken on any agenda item.

Agenda materials, staff reports, and background information related to regular agenda items are available on the City's website: www.cityofgrassvalley.com. Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet will be made available on the City of Grass Valley website at www.cityofgrassvalley.com, subject to City staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Please note, individuals who disrupt, disturb, impede, or render infeasible the orderly conduct of a meeting will receive one warning that, if they do not cease such behavior, they may be removed from the meeting. The chair has authority to order individuals removed if they do not cease their disruptive behavior following this warning. No warning is required before an individual is removed if that individual engages in a use of force or makes a true threat of force. (Gov. Code, § 54957.95.)

Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible and listening devices are available. Other special accommodations may be requested to the City Clerk 72 hours in advance of the meeting by calling (530) 274-4390, we are happy to accommodate.

REGISTRATION FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwuc-6sqTkpE9bpbWicESOrydb8c6-hL8IN>

Please note that to register for the virtual meeting you will be required to provide an email address. If you wish to participate in the meeting without providing an email address, you may attend the meeting in person at 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 in the Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT - *Members of the public are encouraged to submit public comments via voicemail at (530) 274-4390 and email to public@cityofgrassvalley.com. Comments will be reviewed and distributed before the meeting if received by 5pm. Comments received after 5pm will be addressed during the item and/or at the end of the meeting. Historical Commission will have the option to modify their action on items based on comments received. Action may be taken on any agenda item. There is a time limitation of three minutes per person for all emailed, voicemail, or in person comments, and only one type of public comment per person. For any items not on the agenda, and within the jurisdiction or interest of the City, please come to the podium at this time. If you wish to speak regarding a scheduled agenda item, please come to the podium when the item is announced. When recognized, please begin by providing your name and address for the record (optional).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consideration of a city-sponsored application to the Landmarks Commission to establish Memorial Park as an historic landmark

ADJOURN

POSTING NOTICE

This is to certify that the above notice of a meeting of a Historical Commission, scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 4:00 PM was posted at city hall, easily accessible to the public, as of 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

Taylor Day, City Clerk



**HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

Agenda Item: 1
Prepared by: Amy Wolfson, City Planner

DATA SUMMARY

Subject: Consideration of a city-sponsored application to the Landmarks Commission to establish Memorial Park as an historic landmark
Location/APN: 350 Race Street /009-300-001
Applicant/Owner: City of Grass Valley
Zoning/General Plan: Open Space (OS)
Entitlement: Mural Sign Permit
Environmental Status: Class 1 Exemption

RECOMMENDATION:

The Historical Commission recommends that City Council direct staff to complete an application to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for consideration of establishing Memorial Park as an Historic Landmark as presented, or as modified by the City Council, which includes the following actions:

1. Determine the project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by the “common sense” rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.
2. Adopt Findings of Fact for approval of the Mural Sign Permit as presented in the Staff Report; and,
3. Direct staff to complete an application to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission to establish Memorial Park as an historic landmark
4. Authorize the expenditure of up to \$2,000 for the erection of a plaque at the Centennial Courtyard, or as may be modified by Council, with plaque language as indicated in the attachment, or as may be modified by Council.

BACKGROUND:

Memorial Park currently exhibits five existing war-memorial plaques honoring those who served our country in the armed forces. However, there is no historical landmark designation or plaque honoring the establishment of the park itself. The Nevada County Landmark Commission’s assists in identifying historical sites within Nevada County that are worthy of landmark designation after an application request is made. The commission also oversees the erecting and maintenance of markers and plaques for historical landmarks. Their evaluation is informed by the historic registration guidelines issued by national, state and private commissions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Linda Jack, Chair of the Grass Valley Historical Commission, has requested that the city consider the submission of an application to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission to establish Memorial Park as an historic landmark. Jack has also submitted draft language for a plaque to accompany the designation with recommended language to be considered by City Council and the Landmarks Commission. The plaque is recommended to be placed at the newly established Centennial Courtyard. Staff is requesting that the historical commission review the recommended language and make any modifications, and also make any recommendations for precise plaque locations and mounting options for consideration by City Council.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The Centennial Courtyard is a recently installed courtyard within Memorial Park that was approved and funded by City Council at their May 20, 2021 meeting, approved in honor of the centennial anniversary on November 11, 2021. The courtyard project was completed in October 2023 with the installation of four informational kiosks providing a history of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The project qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption. A Class 1 Categorical Exemption consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures or facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use. Consistent with this class of exemption, the designation of the park as an historical landmark and the installation of a historical landmarks plaque provides historical context to the existing park and does not involve the expansion of its use.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The following findings are required to be supported in the affirmative by the evidence presented in the record, including, but not limited to the staff report and supporting attachments.

1. The Community Development Department reviewed the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and Guidelines and determined that the project qualifies for an exemption from CEQA under the Class 1 Categorical Exemptions.
2. That the designation of Memorial Park as an historic landmark and the installation of an historic landmark plaque is consistent with the City Council's strategic goal no. 1, that *"the City of Grass Valley is dedicated to promoting programs and projects that improve livability and enhance the character and charm of Grass Valley."*

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Proposed Plaque Language

Attachment 2 – Diagram of Centennial Park (for purposes of discussing plaque location)

MEMORIAL PARK: GRASS VALLEY'S GREATEST ASSET

At noon on November 11, 1921, bells tolled throughout the city of Grass Valley as over two thousand residents and visitors gathered to attend the opening of Memorial Park. Presided over by Jim Tyrrell, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, the ceremony celebrated an unprecedented act of community philanthropy and collaboration that transformed an abandoned pear orchard into a park that would come to be known as the city's greatest asset. The park honored the community's some 450 World War I service members and memorialized its war dead, provided residents with opportunities for recreation and community gatherings and created a destination for automobile tourism. Completed in just under a year, the park was built through the financial generosity, time, and talents of countless volunteers from all walks of life and social positions. No city funds or taxes were used. Visitors arriving at the park found a lushly planted memorial grove to honor the war dead, picnic grounds, a spacious pool with changing rooms, tennis courts, a children's playground, a creek stocked with trout, a baseball diamond, a community building, and a travel campground with cottages. Inspired by the park's centennial in 2021 the City of Grass Valley's Historical Commission initiated the creation of this Centennial Courtyard to tell the story of the community's collective act of remembrance and renewal that built Memorial Park. Still enjoyed today by residents and visitors alike, the ever-evolving park keeps alive the motto of the 1921 building campaign, *In Memory of the Past, We Build for the Future.*



GRASS VALLEY
A PLACE TO LIVE AND THRIVE

Landmark registered by Nevada County
_____ 2024 - NEV 24-0?
Monument dedicated 2024 by the
Nevada County Historical Landmarks
Commission
In cooperation with the City of Grass Valley



1851

