



Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Agenda Report

From: Wyatt Lund, Recreation Program Coordinator

Subject: Recommend the Endorsement of the Preliminary Monument Concept for Veterans Park

Date: April 13, 2026

Facts

1. In March of 2025, VFW Post 10965 Commander Leo Castillo approached the city with interest in designing, funding and building a veteran's monument at Veterans Park. City Council supported this initiative with the expectation that a concept would be developed and brought forward for consideration at a later time.
2. City staff from the Community Services and Community Development Departments met with Commander Castillo, artist Max Randolph (blacksmith sculptor) and Casey Randolph at the proposed site and determined a suitable location.
3. The monument site is south of the Veterans Memorial Building, in a space previously used as a playground, which is now vacant.
4. The proposed monument would be funded by Paso Robles VFW Post 10965 and American Legion Post 50, who have a fundraising plan and website in place.
5. In March of 2026, city staff reviewed the concept and scale model.
6. The proposed monument, constructed of steel and copper, features the six iconic swords, sabers, and cutlasses of the military branches lifting an olive wreath overhead. The total structure height would be over 20 feet.
7. The monument would also include lighting, engraved paver bricks available for purchase, and an opportunity to memorialize service members by suspending military tags from the olive wreath.
8. Endorsement of this monument concept would allow the project to be presented to City Council for approval. If approved, the project would enter the next project phase including determination of engineering requirements, actual costs, and continued fundraising.

Community Outreach

None

Options

1. Take no action;
2. Recommend the endorsement of the preliminary monument concept for Veterans Park;
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

In the spring of 2025, VFW Post 10965 Commander Leo Castillo approached City Council with interest in designing, funding and building a veteran's monument at Veterans Park in Paso Robles. With City Council's support, Commander Castillo enlisted local blacksmith sculptor, Max Randolph, to create a

concept design for the monument. Paso Robles currently does not have a veteran's monument in any of its public parks.

City staff from the Community Services Department and Community Development Department met with Commander Castillo and Max and Casey Randolph at Veterans Park to tour the proposed site, considering accessibility, electrical access and drainage issues and determined the location to be suitable for a monument. The proposed site is south of the Veterans Memorial Building, in a space previously used as a playground, which has been vacant for a few years.

The proposed monument will be constructed of steel and copper, built off site, and assembled in place once ready. The concept features six twenty-foot iconic swords, sabers and cutlasses that represent the six United States military branches. The swords are anchored by an 8-foot diameter olive wreath that will be at least 13 feet overhead. The monument will feature ground level lighting, a decomposed granite center, and concrete pillars to anchor each sword handle. The total structure height would be over 20 feet.

The monument will include two customizable features; engraved paver bricks for the surrounding walkway and the inclusion of military tags that will be suspended from the wreath to memorialize service members. The proceeds of these additions will benefit Paso Robles VFW Post 10965 and American Legion Post 50 who have committed to performing the work of updating the monument to include these features, as well as providing ongoing maintenance related to the monument

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) held the responsibility of endorsing or approving art installations on public property in Paso Robles until March of 2026, when the role was transferred to the newly formed Arts and Culture Board (ACB) per the amendments and reactivation of Chapter 3.21 of the City Paso Robles Municipal Code, Visual Art in Public Places. PRAC is being asked to act in this role in the interim, while ACB is currently in the recruitment phase. Per the newly adopted Municipal Code, this project is considered high profile and requires review by City Council.

Endorsement of this monument concept would allow the project to be presented to the Paso Robles City Council for review and approval. If approved, the project would enter the next phase of development, including determining and designing the structural engineering, electrical components, actual project costs, and fundraising to include the launch of an active donation webpage.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed monument would be funded by Paso Robles VFW Post 10965 and American Legion Post 50. The City would incur staff costs relating to the project.

Recommendation (Option 2)

Recommend the endorsement of the preliminary monument concept for Veterans Park.

Attachments

1. Scale Model of Monument
2. Illustration of Monument
3. Proposed Monument Site Map
4. Ordinance No. 1166 – Re-Instating and Amending Chapter 3.21 of the Municipal Code