



Councilmember Ben Bartlett
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 30, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Subject: Referral to the Parks and Waterfront Commission: Greg Brown Park

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Parks and Waterfront commission consider initiating a community process regarding the reopening of Greg Brown Park.

Conduct a public hearing and invite relevant stakeholders – including neighbors, representatives from the Berkeley Police Department and the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department.

Include an assessment of any funding requirements and/or public safety concerns.

Prepare a report for submission to Council summarizing feedback from the public hearing and the commission’s recommendations.

BACKGROUND

Greg Brown Park, located on 1907 Harmon Street, between Adeline St and Shattuck Ave, is one of the few parks in Southeast Berkeley.



The park is completely enclosed with only one way in and out – from the south side on Harmon St.

Park hours are limited. Between September and June, it is open at the following times:

- Monday through Friday: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Between June and September, it is open at the following times:

- Monday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Historically, Greg Brown Park has been the site of neighborhood crime. As a result, the City decided to enclose the park and limit its operational hours. Today, there is a much lower crime rate in the neighborhood surrounding Greg Brown Park.

The Parks and Waterfront Commission should hold a public hearing to consider opening up the park, taking into consideration funding requirements, public safety concerns, and community feedback.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No impact.

CONTACT PERSON

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