

Subject: FW: Item 17 Grant Howell Park

From: Ron Yeo <ronyeo@me.com>

Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 10:10 AM

To: Dept - City Council <CityCouncil@newportbeachca.gov>

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I would like to offer my "conditional" support for this renovation project and hope that you approve it with all of the alternates.

As a nearby resident, I am aware of the current issues of the park and am very impressed with the final design solutions that the Park's staff and Landscape Architects have incorporated.

PLAYGROUND

The re-location and new play equipment makes perfect sense.

ATHLETIC FIELD

Like most Architects, I am not a fan of fake materials, but staff's rationale for changing to artificial turf makes sense.

RESTROOM

The RR was one of the first ones that I designed for the City. It has held up remarkably well for over 20 years. The exposed beams need to be evaluated for dry rot and the interior, which is clean and kept up nicely is rather dull and depressing. It would be helpful to brighten it up with a little color.

5TH STREET FRONTAGE

Adding a wide sidewalk is a necessary addition to the street where parents with strollers now have to walk in the street. However this sidewalk requires the removal of the retaining wall, the utility poles and the existing trees.

The existing trees are an important part of the Flower Street Village character.

Their loss would be significant. That said, it would be a fair trade of the existing trees for the undergrounding of the utilities along 5th Ave.

However, if for some reason that the undergrounding is not part of the project,

I as well as many of my neighbors would not be in favor of the tree removal and would not support the design.