


City of Calistoga

Staff Report

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4 **TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council
5 **FROM:** Michael Kirn, Public Works Director/City Engineer
6 **DATE:** August 15, 2017
7 **SUBJECT:** Consideration of a Resolution Indicating Support and Commitment for the
8 Development of a San Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad
9 Memorial Linear Park on Washington Street Across from the Fire Station

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11 APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:



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14 DYLAN FEIK, CITY MANAGER

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16 **ISSUE:** Consideration of a Resolution that:

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18 1. Affirms the City's commitment to work with the Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters
19 of the Golden West, Parlor 86 and preliminarily sets aside a portion of the public
20 right-of-way on Washington Street across the street from the Fire Department for the
21 purposes of planning and developing a linear park as a memorial to the former San
22 Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad.
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24 2. Directs staff to work with the Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden
25 West, Parlor 86 to develop a framework for a non-routine encroachment permit or
26 site-license agreement for the linear park and return to the Council with a proposed
27 project, commensurate responsibilities and financing.
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29 **RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the Resolution.

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31 **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:** As part of the Lower Washington Street Reconstruction
32 Project the former San Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad tracks in

33 Washington Street had to be removed due to safety concerns associated with the
34 deteriorated pavement. The tracks were deeply embedded in the concrete roadway and
35 the contractor was not able to remove them without them getting bent and broken.
36

37 On July 19 ,2017 a Mayor's Community Forum was held to discuss possible options for
38 reuse of the removed railroad tracks. The Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters of the
39 Golden West, Parlor 86 were in attendance and offered several suggestions to
40 memorialize the San Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad including a linear park
41 across the street from the Fire Station.
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43 City staff suggested that the Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West,
44 Parlor 86 submit a request to the City Council to preliminarily "set-aside" a portion of the
45 right-of-way and begin the planning process, develop roles and responsibilities and
46 financing associated with the linear park. The request is attached to the staff report as
47 Exhibit 1.
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49 The recommended resolution affirms the City's intent to begin the process to develop a
50 memorial park for the former San Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad and
51 return to the City Council with a conceptual project, including roles, responsibilities and
52 financing.
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54 **FISCAL IMPACT:** The FY 17/18 Budget includes \$10,000 for matching funds in the
55 event there is sufficient private interest and financial commitment in developing the
56 memorial park.
57

58 **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 59 1. Resolution
- 60 2. Letter from Calistoga Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor 86

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-XXX

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALISTOGA,
COUNTY OF NAPA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, INDICATING ITS SUPPORT AND
COMMITMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SAN FRANCISCO AND NAPA
VALLEY ELECTRIC RAILROAD MEMORIAL LINEAR PARK ON WASHINGTON
STREET ACROSS FROM THE FIRE STATION**

WHEREAS, the City of Calistoga had to remove a portion of the former San Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad tracks in Washington Street as part of the Lower Washington Street Reconstruction Project due to safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2017 the City of Calistoga held a Mayor's Community Forum to discuss possible options for reuse of the removed railroad tracks; and

WHEREAS, the Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, Parlor 86 attended the Mayors' Forum and offered several suggestions to memorialize the San Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad including a linear park; and

WHEREAS, City staff suggested that the Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, Parlor 86 submit a request to the City Council to begin the planning process, develop roles and responsibilities and financing associated with the linear park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Calistoga received a request from the Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, Parlor 86 to begin the planning and development a linear park as a memorial to the former San Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to state its intention to work with the Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, Parlor 86 for planning and developing a linear park in landscape and sidewalk area of the public right-of-way on Washington Street across the street from the Fire Department.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City Council of the City of Calistoga hereby affirms its commitment and intent to work with the Calistoga Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, Parlor 86 and preliminarily sets aside a portion of the public right-of-way on Washington Street across the street from the Fire Department for the purposes of planning and development a linear park as a memorial to the former San Francisco and Napa Valley Electric Railroad.
2. Staff is directed to work with the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, Parlor 86 to develop a framework for a non-routine encroachment permit or site-license agreement for the linear park and return to the Council with a proposed project, commensurate responsibilities and financing.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Calistoga at a regular meeting held this **15th day of August, 2017**, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

CHRIS CANNING, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Flamson, City Clerk

AUG - 8 2017

RECEIVED



City Council

City of Calistoga

1232 Washington St.

Calistoga, CA

The Native Sons of the Golden West, Calistoga Parlor #86 is dedicated to the preservation of not only California History, but specifically Calistoga History. Since 1886 our Parlor has been active in dedicating historical sites in the upper Napa Valley. Though some of these sites are not deemed a California Historical Landmark, and are not subject to preservation regulations, they still are a part of our personal history as the community of Calistoga and should be treated as such.

Recently the last section of railroad tracks was removed from Washington St, as the City of Calistoga re-built the roadway. Our Parlor, along with the Native Daughters of the Golden West Parlor #145 and others attempted to ensure that this piece of history would not be erased. The Calistoga Native Sons in 1999, had previously dedicated a historical plaque that pointed out the historical importance of the San Francisco and Napa Valley Railroad. This train ran from Vallejo to Calistoga between 1905 and 1937. During this time, the train transported hundreds of thousands of people to Napa and Calistoga from the ferry terminal in Vallejo. This train helped develop Calistoga into a tourist destination, bringing many people here prior to the building of the Golden Gate, and Bay Bridges. It was also important in that it was the only AC powered electric train east of the Mississippi River.

The original understanding that our Parlor had with the City was that the tracks would be saved and later re-installed on another section of Washington St, when that section was rebuilt in the future. However, in the removal of the rails, they were severely damaged. It is apparent to all, that those tracks will never be able to be reinstalled.

The Calistoga Native Sons, would like to partner with the Calistoga Native Daughters, and any other community members who wish to work with us, to potentially develop a linear park and install a monument that will preserve the memory of this electric train. But to do this, we need the use of city property on which to install this. What we are asking is, that the City of Calistoga "Purpose" a section of landscape on Washington St., as a site for a future monument, dedicated to the Electric Train. This would be a first step, which we feel is necessary, before investing time and money into what the monument might look like and preserve what was once there so future generation may be able to enjoy the history of our small community.

The area for which we wish to have you Purpose for this, would be the small strip landscape on the North side of Washington St., between the curb and sidewalk, from the driveway to the WestAmerica Bank to the driveway that enters the parking lot behind the Magnolia Building.

On behalf of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Calistoga Parlor #86, we thank you and look forward to working with the City in establishing something that is attractive, and beneficial to both the people of Calistoga and most important, to the millions of visitors that visit our beautiful Napa Valley each year.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Neill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" and last name "O'Neill" clearly distinguishable.

Sean O'Neill, President
Calistoga Parlor #86
Native Sons of the Golden West
1516 Filmore St.
Calistoga, CA
707-331-2667