Council Agenda Report

From: Freda Berman, Maintenance Superintendent/Events Manager

Subject: City Park Event Request for Posada in the Park on December 4, 2016

Date: October 4, 2016

Facts
1. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) requests to stage Posada in the Park in City Park on December 4, 2016.
2. Las Posadas is a religious festival traditionally celebrated in Mexico between December 16 and 24 and commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of refuge. Each evening of the festival, a small child dressed as an angel leads a procession through the streets of the town. The procession is primarily made up of children dressed in silver and gold robes carrying lit candles and Mary and Joseph riding a donkey. Adults, including musicians, follow the procession which visits selected homes
3. LULAC proposes four stations on the east side of City Park surrounding the Gazebo for the procession. The Gazebo will be decorated as a manger. The procession will visit the stations singing the traditional song for lodging. At the conclusion, Mary and Joseph will walk into the Gazebo, Christmas songs will be sung and five piñatas broken.
4. Tamales, hot chocolate and champurado (hot milk, cinnamon, rice flour) will be available for attendees.
5. LULAC, founded in 1929, is a Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States. Its mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population.
6. Posada in the Park will have no cost impact to the City – no City staff time is anticipated. In the case that overtime or other costs are incurred, the event promoter will be required to reimburse all costs.
7. No other prominent in-City events are scheduled for this date.

Options
1. Approve the request by the League of United Latin American Citizens to stage Posada in the Park in City Park on December 4, 2016.
2. Approve the request by the League of United Latin American Citizens to stage Posada in the Park in City Park on December 4, 2016 with the following conditions:
    a. Any live animals used in the procession must be stabled in a trailer and not on the City Park turf.
    b. Gazebo decorations must not damage the structure in any way and are to be removed at the end of the event.
3. Deny the request by the League of United Latin American Citizens to stage Posada in the Park in City Park on December 4, 2016.

Analysis and Conclusions
There is a precedent for religious events in City Park – the annual National Day of Prayer, for example. In approving new events for City Park it has been important to consider the applicability of the proposed program to the Paso Robles community and its possible interest in the event. This event brings a new event to the park for the holiday season and adds to the options already available –Holiday Craft Bazaar

and Downtown Lighting Ceremony on November 25, Christmas Light Parade on December 3 and Vine Street Victorian Showcase on December 10.

Historically, live animals have been allowed in City Park under controlled conditions. Turf fertilizers and pesticides may have a negative effect on a grazing animal. Moreover, animal waste, even if removed, is a concern in a public park.

Repair and renovation of the City Park Gazebo was completed in July 2016. In an effort to maintain the structure in the long-term, event promoters are required to leave the Gazebo in the same condition as when they accepted it.

Fiscal Impact
None; the City will be reimbursed for any costs incurred.

Recommendation
1. Approve the request by the League of United Latin American Citizens to stage Posada in the Park in City Park on December 4, 2016 with conditions regarding stabling of live animals and Gazebo decorations.

2. If the 2016 event is held successfully, meeting all conditions, and in the absence of proposed programming changes for 2017, it is recommended that Posada in the Park be considered approved in future years without formal Council approval.

Attachments
None.