



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Recommendation to approve the Volunteer Plaza Dedication

Presenter: Peter Suhr

Please check appropriate box:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	X	Government Services 04.27.15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development		City Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing		

Estimated Cost:	N/A	Budgeted:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

Executive Summary:

On behalf of the River Corridor of St. Charles, City staff is requesting formal approval to designate the plaza area north of the Municipal Building as “Volunteer Plaza”.

At the February 24, 2014 Government Services Committee Meeting, Staff proposed the Memorial Dedication layout. There was unanimous support to proceed with the location and the memorials themselves.

At the March 24, 2014 Government Services Committee Meeting, Staff presented the final design and location of the Memorial Dedication Garden, again with unanimous support.

In September of 2014, construction of the Municipal Parking Lot and associated plaza was completed.

In January, 2015, the River Corridor Committee agreed to name the proposed area the “Volunteer Plaza”.

Please find attached a map depicting the location of the proposed Volunteer Plaza. Also please find attached a Purpose & Concept overview prepared by the River Corridor.

Attachments: *(please list)*

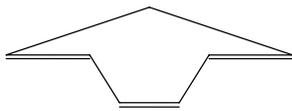
- Map depicting the location of the Volunteer Plaza.
- Purpose & Concept Overview (Prepared by River Corridor of St. Charles).

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

Recommendation to approve the location of and the Dedication of the Volunteer Plaza.

<i>For office use only:</i>	<i>Agenda Item Number: 5.k</i>
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VOLUNTEER PLAZA



NORTH

Date: April 27, 2015



Volunteer Plaza

Purpose and Concept

(Prepared by the River Corridor Foundation of St. Charles)

St. Charles is a community of people and businesses bound by a geographic area. The viability and vitality of the community, though, depends on the involvement of residents. In this regard, St. Charles has a long history of residents contributing their time and talent for the betterment of the community. This is the essence of volunteerism.

The cumulative contributions of volunteers since St. Charles was settled in 1834 are immeasurable. Social service, community events, public art, education, conservation, and public improvements are some of the areas that have benefitted by the work of volunteers. It is obvious from even limited observation that these benefits have greatly enhanced the quality of life in our community.

Many agencies formally recognize the efforts of volunteers. The most prominent is the Charlemagne Award given by the Chamber of Commerce for lifetime achievement of service to St. Charles. There are, however, literally hundreds of volunteers who happily give to the community with little, if any, recognition.

With the above thoughts in mind, the River Corridor Foundation of St. Charles is recommending that the plaza currently being developed in the parking lot behind the Municipal Building be designated as Volunteer Plaza. The focus of the plaza will be a sculpture titled Reflections, designed by St. Charles resident Guy Bellaver. It is meant to memorialize and honor Max and Doris Hunt, who, over time have embodied the ideal of volunteerism. Most notably, Max and Doris were able to involve others in their volunteer efforts. Symbolically, the sculpture is constructed of polished stainless steel to reflect the image of the onlooker, as a reminder of his or her responsibility to the community.

The plan is to carry the volunteer theme throughout the plaza. As part of that theme, it is proposed that all the Charlemagne Award winners will be prominently displayed around Reflections. The plaza will also have a rain garden to honor Jim Spear for his long tenure on the city's plan commission. Future art work and landscaping may be placed in the plaza to honor other volunteers.

The plaza space is not large enough to display the names of all the volunteers who have contributed to the community. It is important, though, that all volunteers have the opportunity to be recognized in some way. To this end, it is planned that a digital database will be developed where people can enter volunteer names and related information. The plaza will display instructions for accessing the database. When completed, the plaza will encourage people to contemplate the important role of volunteerism to St. Charles, as well as demonstrate the appreciation the community has for them.