

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 04-188

DATE June 4, 2004

C.D. 8

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ANGELES MESA PARK: PROPOSED PLANTING OF FOUR TREES AND
INSTALLATION OF MEMORIAL MONUMENTS IN HONOR OF HORACE
TAPSCOTT AND JOHNNIE E. RAINES, JR.

* K. Chan kc
H. Fujita _____
M. Mariscal _____
K. Regan _____

J. Combs _____
J. Kolb _____
F. Mok _____
G. Stigile _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve a memorial monument to Horace Tapscott and a memorial monument to Johnnie E. Raines, Jr., their wording and placement in Angeles Mesa Park;
2. Approve the planting of four trees and their placement in Angeles Mesa Park; and
3. Authorize Region staff to issue a right of entry permit for the installation of the plaques and planting of the trees.

SUMMARY:

The Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council contacted the Department with a request to install two memorial monuments and plant four trees in honor of Horace Tapscott and Johnnie E. Raines, Jr., at Angeles Mesa Park. Angeles Mesa Park is located at 2929 West 48th Street, in the Leimert Park area.

The memorial monuments will be located in the northeast area of the park, to the side of the fountain, next to the fence (see Exhibit A, Site Map). They are cement blocks measuring approximately 2 feet high, 5 feet long, and 6 inches wide with the text incised into the surface.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

PG 2

NO. 04-188

The memorial monuments will read:

1. In Memory of Jazz Legend Horace Tapscott 1934-1999, Dedicated by 11th Avenue Block Club, June 12, 2004.
2. In Memory of Pioneer and Leader Johnnie E. Raines, Jr. 1925-2001, Dedicated by Empowerment Congress West Area NDC, June 12, 2004.

The four trees are being provided by the Department of Water and Power through their Trees for a Green LA Program (1 Gold Medallion, 1 Red Flowering Gum, 2 Australian Willow). Department staff has reviewed and agreed with the tree selection. Two trees will be planted near the monuments and two will be by the pedestrian entry gate. All expenses for installation of the monuments and planting of the trees will be paid by the Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council.

Horace Tapscott was a jazz pianist who dedicated his life to creating music. He was deeply involved in community arts in the area. He often played at Recreation and Parks events and at churches. He was outspoken about racism, stereotypes, and social ethics. He taught and guided hundreds of youths who could not afford music lessons.

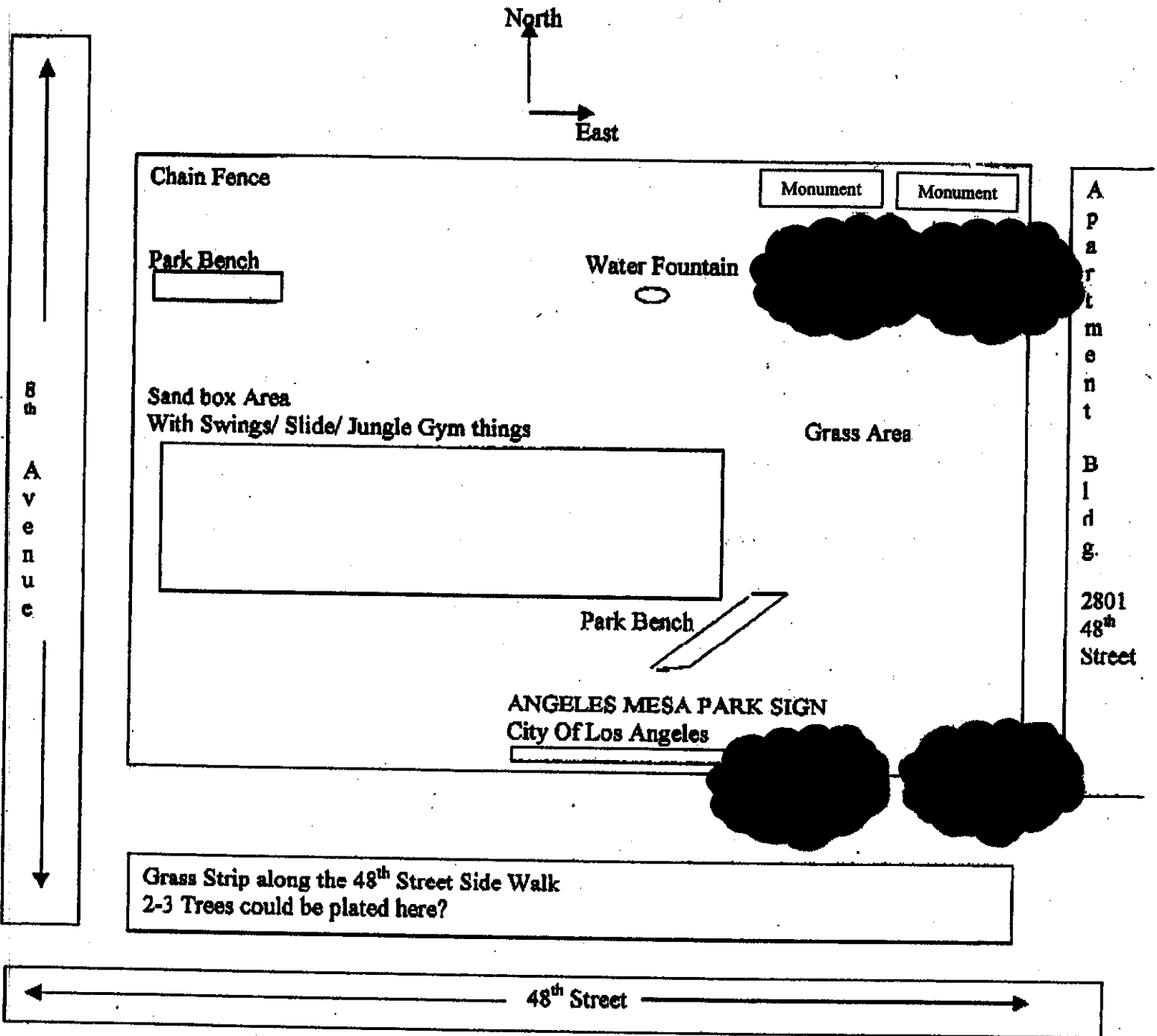
Johnnie E. Raines, Jr., was a longtime Leimert Park resident and Block Captain for over 30 years. He was instrumental in securing grants for community beautification projects in the Crenshaw area, worked closely with LAPD to rid the community of gang activity, graffiti and excessive liquor stores, and served as a community organizer for the 8th District.

The Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council has discussed this issue various times in the last three years at their monthly meetings. This issue was most recently discussed at the meeting April 12, 2004. There were 11 Council members and approximately 50 people from the community at the meeting. All attendees either had no objection or were in favor of the installation of the monuments and planting of the trees. Staff has reviewed this matter and recommends approval of the naming, as does the Councilmember of District 8.

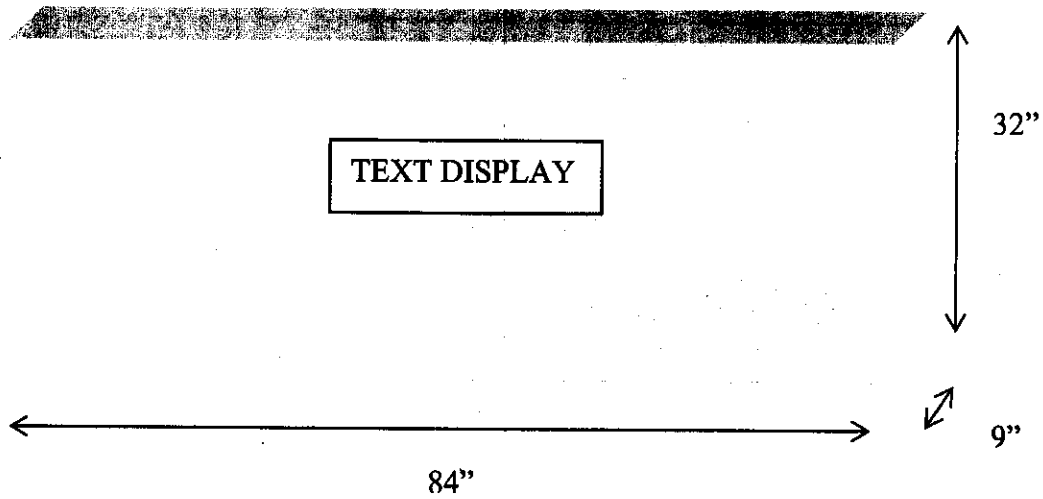
Staff has determined that the subject project will consist planting of the trees, placement of monuments and two on-premises signs, which are minor structures that are accessory to (appurtenant to) the existing park facilities, and therefore, are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4 (3), Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

This Board Report prepared by Nora Dresser, Planning Assistant, and Camille Didier, City Planner, Advance Planning/Special Projects.

ANGELES MESA PARK (BLUEPRINT NOT TO SCALE)
North East Corner of 48th Street and 8th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90043



MONUMENTS



**IN MEMORY OF JAZZ LEGEND HORACE TAPSCOTT, 1934-1999, DEDICATED BY 11TH
AVENUE BLOCK CLUB, JUNE 12, 2004**

**IN MEMORY OF PIONEER AND LEADER JOHNNIE E. RAINES, JR., 1925-2001,
DEDICATED BY EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS WEST AREA NDC, JUNE 12, 2004.**