

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS Approving the Parks Commission to accept a donation of in-kind improvements from the Urban Resources Initiative to help complete the Memorial Garden improvements at park land located on Valley Street.
(Director of Parks, Recreation and Trees)

REPORT: 1556-07

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

In early 2017, with support from the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) and the New Haven Police Department, a group of New Haven mothers who have lost children to gun violence initiated the Memorial Garden project with goals to create a place for families to remember, honor, and celebrate those lost to gun violence, raise awareness of the impacts of gun violence, and encourage community leaders to collaboratively work to reduce gun violence. At its March 18, 2019 meeting, the New Haven Board of Alders accepted a \$300,000 grant from the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for construction of "The Healing Garden" on an underutilized park's parcel on Valley Street. The Director of Parks, Recreation and Trees is requesting authorization for the Parks Commission to accept an in-kind gift of infrastructure improvements from the Urban Resources Initiative (URI), who has received funding commitments from private donors, to complete the memorial garden project at Valley Street Park.


PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The acceptance of a donation of in-kind improvements from the Urban Resources Initiative will help the City achieve New Haven Vision 2025 goals of preserving, maintaining and enhancing underutilized parks parcels. Residents of New Haven will significantly benefit from URI's in-kind donation of improvements used to complete The Healing Garden and will have a tranquil space to memorialize victims of gun violence.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Resolution in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: April 17, 2019
Leslie Radcliffe
Vice Chair

ATTEST: 
Aicha Woods
Director, City Plan Department