



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Raul Peralez

SUBJECT: Pellier Park Master Plan

DATE: December 9, 2019

Approved by:

Date: 12/9/19

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation

BACKGROUND

In March 2016 at the request of the community, my office convened a group of interested stakeholders to form the Pellier Park Ad-Hoc Committee to evaluate a proposed design of the Pellier Park project. This group consisted of residents from the adjacent City Heights Condos, AXIS San José, representatives from the San José Downtown Association, Preservation Action Council and the Mountain Charlie Chapter of E Clampus Vitus. For context, aside from its historical significance, Pellier Park has had its share of challenges such as its unusual small footprint, immediate adjacency to the busy West St. James Street, and has been unintentionally damaged several times via construction activity. After a series of year-long meetings, the committee with my support recommended to City Staff to hit the “pause button” and redesign the project so that it would foster good, urban public life while honoring Louis Pellier and his agricultural contributions.

Since May 2018, the Pellier Park team, consisting of SWA Group, artist Norie Sato, PRNS Planner Robin Spear and Public Art Manager Mary Rubin, led a robust community-oriented process that culminated into the proposed design for Pellier Park. I am pleased that the master plan includes not only very creative “plum-themed” aesthetics, but recognizes the volunteer contributions of the original park by integrating their commemorative plaques. In closing, I am grateful to all who have participated in this process to put forth a public space that is iconic, inviting, and speaks to our history as the Valley of Heart’s Delight.