

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 10

DATE: November 2, 1999

STAFF: Karen McWilliams

SUBJECT:

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 157, 1999, Amending Ordinance No. 121, 1987, by Including in the Landmark Designation of the Power Plant Building and Art Deco Fountain at 430-500 North College Avenue the Landmark Designation of the Rock Garden, Waterway, Pool, and Historic Plantings Known as the "Grotto". Pursuant to Chapter 14 of the City Code.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading. At a public hearing held on September 22, 1999, the Landmark Preservation Commission unanimously recommended the local landmark designation of the Grotto for its historical and architectural importance to the old Power Plant site.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Ordinance No. 157, 1999, which was unanimously adopted on First Reading on October 19, 1999, approved this request from the leasee of the property, Colorado State University, along with the owner of the property, the City of Fort Collins, to amend Ordinance No. 121, 1987 to include the Rock Garden, Waterway, Pool, and Historic Plantings known as the "Grotto". The designation of the grotto as a Local Landmark will allow Colorado State University to apply for State Historic Fund grants for the stabilization and restoration of the feature.

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 16

DATE: October 19, 1999

STAFF: Karen McWilliams

SUBJECT:

First Reading of Ordinance No. 157, 1999, Amending Ordinance No, 121, 1987, by Including in the Landmark Designation of the Power Plant Building and Art Deco Fountain at 430-500 North College Avenue the Landmark Designation of the Rock Garden, Waterway, Pool, and Historic Plantings Known as the "Grotto", Pursuant to Chapter 14 of the City Code.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading. At a public hearing held on September 22, 1999, the Landmark Preservation Commission unanimously recommended the local landmark designation of the Grotto for its historical and architectural importance to the old Power Plant site.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The leasee of the property, Colorado State University, along with the owner of the property, the City of Fort Collins, are initiating this request to amend Ordinance No. 121, 1987 to include the Rock Garden, Waterway, Pool, and Historic Plantings known as the "Grotto". The designation of the grotto as a Local Landmark will allow Colorado State University to apply for State Historic Fund grants for the stabilization and restoration of the feature.

BACKGROUND:

Located at the northwest corner of the City's old Power Plant facility, the grotto was constructed prior to May 1936, as indicated in an historic photograph, and may have been built in the spring of that year, as a component of a \$90,000 "power plant generating station." The grotto consists of a stepped water course constructed of stone in an elongated "S" shape. This water course is surrounded on all sides by randomly placed stones and plantings. The water collected in a pool, and was then discharged into the Poudre River via a stone spillway. In subsequent years, the bank of the Poudre was reconfigured and the water from the pool was recirculated back to the building. The waterway is no longer serviceable, as the plumbing connections inside the power plant have been removed. CSU is exploring the possibility of restoring the waterway to make it operable.