



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

Monday, February 23rd 2026

Subject/Topic: Park Donation and Memorials Policy Discussion	Proposed Council Action/Motion: <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Receive and File <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discuss <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt/Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Dept. Origin: City Council	
Category: City Manager's Report	
Prepared by: Jeff Swanson, City Manager	
Attachments: None	

Proposed Council Action

Discuss and provide direction on the Park Donation and Memorials Policy and disposition of the current moratorium.

Summary

At the September 8, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting during the City Manager's Report Council discussed the Park Donation and Memorials Policy. Council adopted a motion during that discussion to remove the memorial donation page from the website and place a moratorium on acceptance of any additional donations and memorials until such time as a policy could be determined in 2026. Concerns about the proliferation of donations and memorials included unintentional alterations to the function and character of parks, liability for ongoing maintenance and repairs, and impact to regular park maintenance functions such as impacts on the time required for grounds-keeping.

At the recent combined City Council/Park Board meeting (3/16/2026) a public comment was received from a community member who had previously requested to donate and place a memorial tree in Medina Park. The City Council and Park Board members present discussed the policy later during that meeting, and a request was made to produce a list showing the queue of requests for donations and memorials. Below is a summary of the current queue of requests received by the City:

<u>Request</u>	<u>Request Date(s)</u>	<u>Residence of Requestor</u>
Weeping Willow placed by North Bridge of Medina Park in memory of deceased spouse	6/25/2025 & 12/8/2028	Former Medina resident
Bench plaque for deceased dog placed on off-leash side of Medina Park near the pond overlooking the grass field	10/27/2023	Clyde Hill

Bench and plaque placed in Medina Park memorializing deceased close friend	9/25/2024	Medina
Memorial tree placed in Medina Park	9/25/2025 & 3/16/2026	Medina
Memorial pavillion constructed in Medina Park in memory of deceased child	7/9/2024	Medina
Placement of bench and plaque in Medina Park memorializing deceased parents	1/31/2024 & 3/15/2024	Seattle
Placement of tree in Medina Park in memory of deceased dog	6/9/2025	Unknown
Placement of bench in Medina Park in memory of deceased dog	1/25/2024	Medina
Placement of tree in Medina Park in memory of deceased dog	11/6/2023	Bellevue
Placement of engraving in Medina Park in memory of deceased dog	3/17/2026	Unknown

Council Priorities

This proposal furthers Council Priorities 1, 3, and 5.

- 1. Financial Stability and Accountability**
2. Quality Infrastructure
- 3. Efficient and Effective Government**
4. Public Safety and Health
- 5. Neighborhood Character and Community Building**

Budget/Fiscal Impact: No change/impact to current levels of appropriations.

Recommendation: Discuss and provide direction on the Park Donation and Memorials Policy and disposition of the current moratorium.

City Manager Approval:



Proposed Council Motion: none.