

Jun 06, 2023

CITY OF IRVINE
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Memo

To: Oliver Chi, City Manager

From: Larry Agran, Councilmember *LA*

Date: June 5, 2023

Re: Consideration of a Comprehensive Update to the Walkable Historical Timeline in the Great Park

The Walkable Historic Timeline is a great educational and cultural amenity unique to the Great Park. The result of years of hard work by UCI historians Keith Nelson and Spencer Olin, the timeline traces history starting in 13,000 BC, and highlights major world events and historical trends from the perspective of our Orange County and Southern California region.

A portion of the Walkable Historic Timeline located near the Visitors Center in the Great Park Sports Complex was recently refurbished, and the overall feature has been well maintained since its unveiling more than a decade ago. However, with the launch of the Framework Plan, and new momentum at the Great Park, it is time that we consider writing the next chapter of the Walkable Historical Timeline.

The timeline currently ends at 1990, leaving more than thirty years of rich global and regional history unaddressed. Massive advancements in technology (including the advent of the internet and wireless consumer technology) along with significant cultural shifts need to be reflected in the timeline.

Further, technological advancements make it possible to bring the timeline to life in new ways, beyond just paint on concrete. Interactive technology, linkages to additional online content through use of QR codes, and other possible interactive features can allow for a world of new possibilities with regard to enhancing the Walkable Historic Timeline.

In addition to the walkable timeline on display at the Park, Professors Nelson and Olin also developed the Walkable Historical Timeline Handbook, which provides a deeper review of the events that are highlighted in the physical infrastructure. Similar to the walkable timeline itself, the handbook also needs to be updated with new content and interactive tools so that it continues to be a relevant resource for our community.

Given these factors, please add an agenda item at the June 13 City Council meeting to discuss and consider direction that staff initiate a comprehensive update to the Walkable Historical Timeline as a capital project, which would also include an accompanying update to the handbook and the possible development of new digital resources. As we begin to move forward with the next exciting phase of development at the Great Park, the time has come to update and celebrate this unique educational and cultural treasure.

cc: City Council
City Clerk
City Attorney