

Council discusses options for Tsunami Landing Plaza

December 22, 2023



The Crescent City Council agreed the Tsunami Memorial Fountain and the adjoining plaza is underutilized. Changes are forthcoming. The Council is also considering an ordinance to pursue time-of-use restrictions, presently adopted for all city parks.

Here's the chronology and background of the site: The Memorial Fountain was commissioned in 1965 in memory of the 11 lives lost during the 1964 tsunami. It was placed in an area known as Tsunami Landing

Plaza located on Front Street, across from Beachfront Park. The plaza and surrounding areas incorporated concrete walkways and a concrete central plaza, perimeter walls and seating and built on different levels.

An overhead walking cover was removed over two decades ago.

Last year, the city was awarded the Clean California grant which includes some improvements to the parking lot adjoining the plaza. Last month, the council discussed options regarding the repair of the vandalized Tsunami Memorial Fountain. Councilors directed staff to reinstall the fountain in time for the 60th anniversary of the tsunami, March of 2024.

Due to its design, the city has determined the Tsunami Landing Plaza has potential to become an asset as the city seeks to incorporate this space into the Beachfront Park and Front Street development. The city already has a tsunami walking tour with informational kiosks.

As currently designed the Plaza has several challenges:

Scalloped walls and underutilized seating.

Limited public use of this space.

Daily maintenance of trash.

More law enforcement required in the area.

Limited visibility

Accommodation of large crowds like the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree poses additional challenges, including hazardous conditions for children frolicking around the Fountain.

The council is considering changing the city ordinance to align with the park ordinance closing access from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Councilors directed staff to remove the perimeter walls, forthwith.

Options for discussion on the future of Tsunami Landing Plaza will be presented to Council early next year.

Projected costs are pending due to multiple options available but for the time being, are limited to demolition work only. Upon receiving community input on the Plaza's future, the city would explore grant opportunities. It is expected that the level of effort and calls for service may decrease for public works crew and police.

The council meets the first and third Mondays of each month. Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays falling on Monday in December. The Council will meet Tuesday, January 2, at 6 p.m. at the Flynn Center.