

P&R Unit Backs Leask Memorial

Development of a landscaped sitting area overlooking the sea from West Cliff Drive near Sunset Avenue as a memorial to the late Mrs. James Leask was approved by the city Parks and Recreation Commission Monday for recommendation to the Santa Cruz City Council.

Commissioner Harriet Mainis called the memorial "a lovely thing to do," and Commission Chairman Jim Franks agreed. After some concern was expressed that West Cliff Drive could become overly used for such monuments, Mainis said she thought the creation of such beauty spots is an excellent idea.

Paul Thiltgen, Santa Cruz parks and recreation director, told commissioners that Leask will pay for all the development and will put money in trust to maintain the monument in perpetuity.

"We think this is a very good idea," Thiltgen said. "As people donate for such programs there should be an arrangement to help pay for maintenance. Otherwise, the city in the long run would pay big costs for these."

As outlined by Thiltgen, the memorial will be designed by Harry Tsugawa, a local landscape architect, to include low-growth native plants in a development easy to maintain. Cost of the project is estimated at \$7,500, and Leask will add to this payment sufficient money in trust to pay all annual maintenance costs.

The memorial will be in-

dedicated with a granite rock bearing a small plaque.

Commissioner Carol Kreppel raised a number of questions about the memorial on behalf of area residents, including the possibility of affixing a stairway to lead down to the beach. There is a big need in this area for such a stairway, she said, emphasizing that the one now used at Neary Lagoon doesn't go all the way down to the beach. Kids, she said, pick their way down across boulders from the point this stairway ends.

Thiltgen conceded a stairway is needed somewhere in the area but said the Leask Overlook would not be the place to put it because of the steepness of the cliff. He said the state is making money available to improve beach access and he will look for a suitable place for it.

In other business, Franks called for improvement of Mission Plaza in front of Holy Cross Church and commissioners got agreement from Thiltgen to plant some trees in and around the plaza.

Rudy Quintanar, Santa Cruz park superintendent, said he thinks the European hackberry would be most suitable because it is relatively pest free as well as good to look at. But, he stressed, these are difficult to get.

Franks pointed out that under direction of Roy Rydell, a local landscape architect, a master plan for beautification behind Holy Cross Church has been developed and that the Santa Cruz Lumber Co. has donated trees for this program.