



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Administrative Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, FAICP, Director

DATE: June 12, 2008

SUBJECT: **Resolution Commemorating the Site of the Isaac Busey Cabin (“Founder’s Park”), City of Urbana**

Description

As a part of the ongoing 175th Birthday celebrations for the City of Urbana, City Council is being asked to adopt a Resolution to commemorate the site of the Isaac Busey Cabin in the City of Urbana, with the formation of a “Founder’s Park” to be located on a City-owned triangular-shaped lot located behind 300 West Main Street. The Resolution will result in a Mayoral Proclamation to be read on June 21, 2008, the 175th anniversary of the City’s founding. As a celebration event, an archaeologist supervised citizen’s excavation of the site is scheduled to be held on June 28, 2008. Future commemoration of the site through installation of appropriate plaques, markers, and landscaping is also anticipated.

Background and Issues

The proposed Resolution is being promoted by Councilmember Dennis Roberts and other members of Urbana’s 175th Birthday Celebration Committee. The Resolution will authorize the Mayoral Proclamation to commemorate the site of the Isaac Busey Cabin which was built by William Tomkins in 1822 and served as the site for the first circuit court and for deliberations connected with the location of the County seat. On the evening of June 20, 1833 at his log cabin at this location, pioneer settler Isaac Busey made a successful bid for the site of the City of Urbana to a Legislative committee, thus founding our city at this historic location.

The Resolution is intended to allow the City to pursue commemoration of the site through issuance of a proclamation and placement of appropriate plaques, markers, and landscaping, to be planned and developed in conjunction with the Boneyard Creek Master Plan and other development proposals affecting the area. It is anticipated that the site may be used as a part of future development and beautification plans in addition to its proposed status as the Site of the Isaac Busey Cabin (“Founder’s Park”). The establishment of this site is not intended to interfere with the existing or planned future use, development, or improvement of the site or of adjoining property, including adjacent Parking Lot 11.

Options

City Council should review the attached Resolution and offer any suggestions for modifications.

Fiscal Impacts

The proposed Resolution will have no immediate Fiscal Impact upon the City, as the Proclamation and excavation will be conducted as a part of the ongoing birthday celebration. Placement of subsequent memorials or landscaping of the site could have a minor future fiscal impact and will be presented for a budget amendment at a future time, if not already budgeted by the City.

Recommendation

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution as attached.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Proclamation
3. Site Map

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-06-016R

Resolution Commemorating the Site of the Isaac Busey Cabin ("Founders Park")

WHEREAS, In recognition of the City of Urbana's 175th anniversary of its founding, the City wishes to commemorate the site of the Isaac Busey Cabin as a "Founders Park" where, on the evening of June 20, 1833, pioneer settler Isaac Busey made a successful bid for the site of the City of Urbana to a Legislative committee, thus founding Urbana; and

WHEREAS, the Isaac Busey Cabin was located on or nearby a triangular-shaped piece of land, a part of Lot 1 of Walden Subdivision, now owned by the City of Urbana and located behind 300 West Main Street, as depicted on the attached location map; and

WHEREAS, the City proposes to recognize and celebrate the location of this "Founders Park" through events and activities, including a Mayoral Proclamation, an archaeologist supervised citizen's excavation of the site, and future installation of appropriate plaques, markers, and landscaping.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

1. That the Mayor shall issue a Proclamation to establish "Founder's Park", Commemorating the Site of the Isaac Busey Cabin, City of Urbana on June 21, 2008, the 175th anniversary of the City's founding.
2. That the City shall undertake other appropriate commemorative activities, including an archaeologist supervised citizen's

excavation of the site, and installation of appropriate plaques, markers, and landscaping.

3. That the recognition of "Founder's Park" shall be planned and developed in conjunction with the implementation of the Boneyard Creek Master Plan and other development proposals affecting the area.
4. That this Resolution is not intended to interfere with the existing or planned future land use, development, or improvement of the site or of adjoining property, including adjacent City Parking Lot 11.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____,
_____.

AYES:

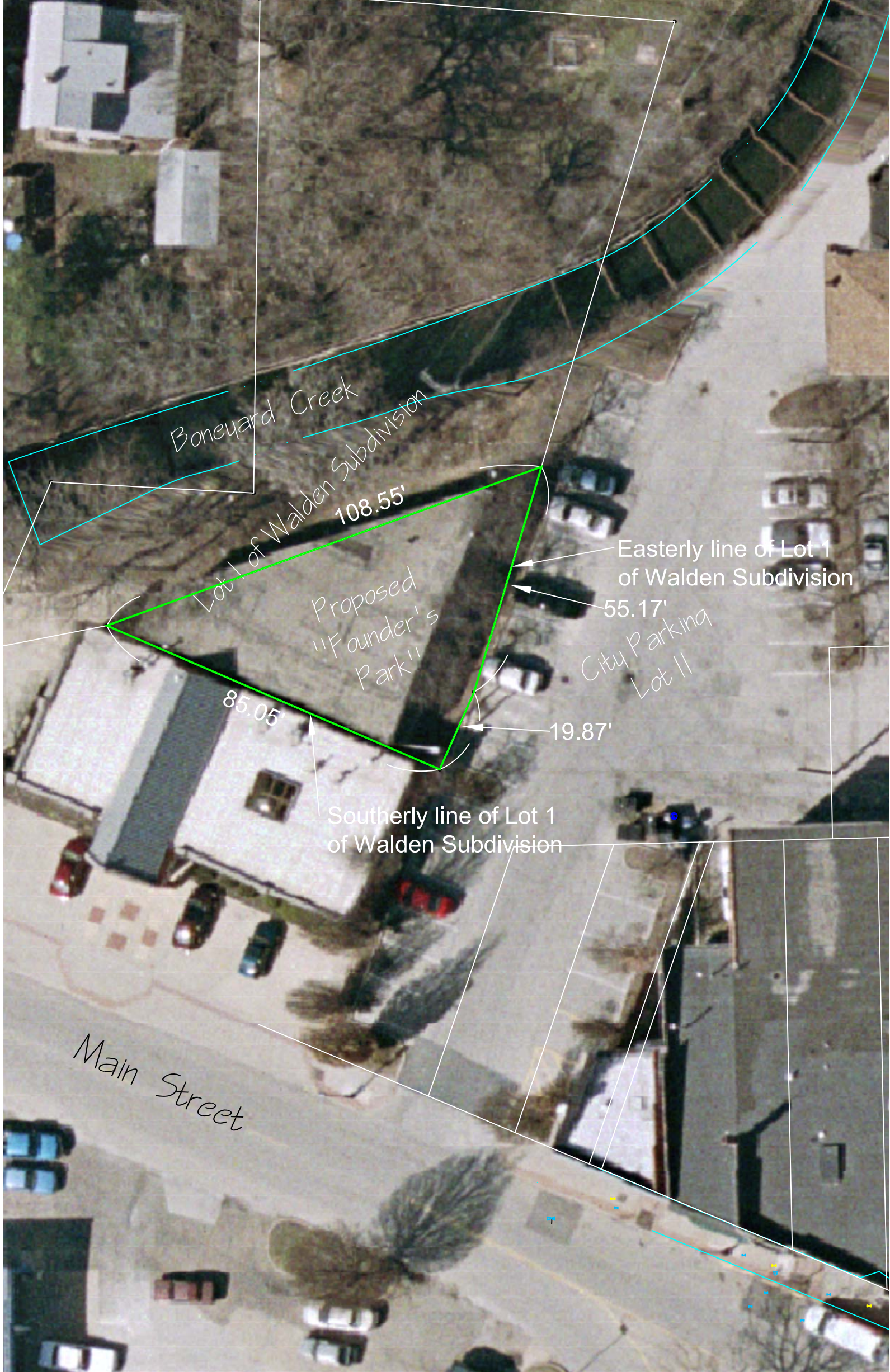
NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor



Proposed Founder's Park



City of Urbana
Public Works Department
Engineering Division
Date: 6/10/2008 Drawn by: BWF

