

From: [Gwen Woirhaye](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: For City Council and City Manager
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022 8:10:36 PM

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To: City Manager Brian Saeki
Mayor Joe Vinatieri
City Council Members
Henry Bouchot
Fernando Dutra
Jessica Martinez
Cathy Warner

As a Quaker I am highly distressed to find that the City has made a decision to place a memorial related to war in Central Park. This piece of land was donated to the city by the Society of Friends for use in perpetuity as open recreational space only. The founders are figuratively turning in their graves as they would not have imagined, let alone condoned, such use of this community space.

The structure under construction was never vetted in public meetings by the Historic Resources Commission as required by the codes of the City of Whittier; nor was First Friends Church, one block away and the church of the founders, given the courtesy of notice that such use was under consideration. In addition, residents of the Central Park Historic District should have been notified of a public hearing where the proposal would be discussed within the context of the Central Park Historic District requirements.

In the past, monuments such as the John Greenleaf Whittier statue, the Barefoot Boy, and the war and police memorials at City Hall, were all the subject of much publicity and public awareness. Having made this decision during Christmas week of 2020 during the pandemic seems rather secretive.

If we had a qualified consultant on staff to research the appropriate code and history BEFORE such a decision is made as the most appropriate place for such a memorial, a major mistake could have been prevented.

It is my contention that the City Hall area is a MUCH more appropriate place for any memorial that has any connection with war than our precious and very limited in space Central Park, known in the past as Friends Park. The Greenway Trail is another possibility and if it must go in

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a park, Founders Park, being a memorial park, would be more suitable.

Right now only the concrete base is in. There is still time. I respectfully request that the Council STOP construction until all of the proper steps have been taken and that a decision can be made to relocate this structure to a more appropriate site.

Gwen Woirhaye
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