

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I am heartened by CD13's opposition to vacating the park-like, unpaved 1700 block of Maltman Avenue. I also appreciate the concerns of the adjacent property owners. I believe, though, that the improvement of this cherished community asset is an opportunity to make everyone happy. I am not an arborist but I can tell that there are numerous species of flora in this space and estimate the trees to be several decades old. I have no proof of who planted the flora there but I do know that a landscaper and member of the Board of Governors of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, James Noboru Ishitani, lived next door in the mid-20th century. Ishitani died in 2014 and his wife, Grace Michiko Ishitani (née Imaizumi) died that year, too. They were survived, however, by two daughters, and five grand children. I would love to see an effort made by the city to reach out to these descendants in order to confirm or deny any suspicions about James's possible involvement in its creation. I believe that, were his involvement confirmed, it would provide a unique opportunity to honor both him and Silver Lake's historically significant if largely overlooked Japanese community and its many contributions to the culture of both Silver Lake and Los Angeles as a whole. And if it can't be turned into a park -- I hope that it can at least be maintained as a greenspace with public access. Thank you.