



RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: May 13, 2019

Subject

Confirm implementation of all-inclusive playground at Jollyman Park.

Recommendation

Execute funding agreement with County of Santa Clara to accept \$1,448,201 in grant funding and proceed with implementation of an all-inclusive playground at Jollyman Park.

Background

The Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2017-18 included funding to conduct a feasibility study for an all-inclusive playground in Cupertino. The study identified potentially suitable sites at four city parks and evaluated them based on a range of criteria. The draft study results were presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission on June 7, 2018. The results concluded that Jollyman Park was the top-ranked site for an all-inclusive playground. The Commission unanimously endorsed this finding. On August 2, 2018 additional information was presented to the Commission, including preliminary costs and potential conceptual designs for an all-inclusive playground at Jollyman Park. This information was added to the June findings to create the completed feasibility study (see Attachment A).

The County of Santa Clara initiated an All-Inclusive Playground Grant (AIPG) Program in 2017, with up to \$2 million in grants for each of 5 supervisorial districts. The County provided over 11 weeks of notice for preparation of applications. A first round of grants was awarded in January 2018. On September 11, 2018, the County announced an invitation to apply for a second round of funding for all-inclusive playgrounds, again with \$2 million available per district. The application period was a much shorter, one-month window. Among the requirements was designating an "Authorized Representative" and authorizing that person to execute a grant agreement if an award is made (See Attachment B for the AIPG guidelines.).

On October 2, 2018, the Cupertino City Council received a presentation which provided information about the grant opportunity and briefly summarized results of the all-inclusive playground feasibility study (see Attachment C). The City Council directed

staff to submit an application to the County's AIPG grant program to request funding for an all-inclusive playground at Jollyman Park. The Council adopted a resolution that clarified its commitment to the grant requirements and authorized execution of a funding agreement if a grant were to be awarded (see Attachment D).

Staff prepared and submitted an application prior to the October 12, 2018 deadline that was consistent with the feasibility study's findings and the Council's direction. The application addressed the program guidelines carefully to help it rank well. Cupertino's application was the highest scoring in our district and one of the two highest overall.

In December 2018, the County Board of Supervisors authorized grant awards. The Board of Supervisors authorized a grant award to Cupertino of \$1,448,201, one of the two highest awards in the County. The City's contribution will be \$1.2 million. The balance of the project cost would be provided through fundraising and donations.

Our delivery commitment in 2021 was a scored element of our grant application. We were evaluated in part on our readiness to deliver a site specific playground project.

Discussion

Jollyman Park was identified in the consultant's study as the top-ranked site in Cupertino for an all-inclusive play area. It was endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission in June and August 2018. Community input at the Commission meetings was favorable. The City's grant application was a strong one and scored very well, winning the City the largest grant award in this funding cycle. The application committed the city to delivering a high-quality, functional playground at Jollyman Park with a conceptual design that will be welcoming to all types of users (see Attachment E) and an inviting variety of physical and sensory elements.

The other potential sites did not rank as strongly for a number of reasons. Jollyman Park can offer a welcoming layout with excellent sightlines and good access. Its setting is generally calm enough to be inviting for sensitive users. Some of the other sites, such as Memorial and Creekside parks, regularly experience busy conditions with larger crowds and higher noise levels that can be less welcoming for those that are sensitive. Jollyman Park has enough space available to provide a complete set of play elements, and space to provide "nodes" of clustered types of elements for predictable play experiences as is desirable for inclusive sites. Some sites do not provide enough space for the desired footprint unless another existing recreation feature is displaced.

The County evaluated the grant applications based on a range of site-specific criteria, which included the conceptual design, access for community members, readiness to proceed, fund raising plans, and more. The location at Jollyman Park is closely tied to the evaluation of the grant. Grant administration staff from Santa Clara County have informed the City that if the location is changed that the City will no longer receive the

approved grant. This is regardless of whether the size of the playground footprint is the same and the included playground elements are the same.

If the City Council chooses to proceed with an all-inclusive playground at Jollyman Park, a robust community involvement process will occur. The intention is to involve the neighbors and the wider community in the design process and to develop a play area that truly represents our community. In addition, a formal fundraising process is needed. Staff will return to the City Council for authorization to execute agreements for the appropriate services.

During the process to develop a citywide parks and recreation master plan, providing all-inclusive play areas has received community support. A recommendation of the master plan is that in addition to creating a comprehensive inclusive play area such as the one proposed at Jollyman, that inclusive elements be provided at other playgrounds across the city. For example, Playworld is launching smaller balanced sets of all-inclusive play features created in collaboration with Magical Bridge Foundation that can be added into existing play areas. These types of smaller features will be less expensive and could be implemented at multiple sites if the City Council chooses to pursue that goal.

Sustainability Impact

The project would be consistent with the city's sustainability policies and objectives.

Fiscal Impact

Proceeding with a project commits the City to implementing an all-inclusive playground at Jollyman Park using a \$1.2 million City contribution, a \$1,448, 201 County AIPG grant, and fundraising for the balance of the project cost.

Prepared by: Gail Seeds, Park Improvement Manager

Reviewed by: Jeff Milkes, Director of Recreation & Community Services

Approved for Submission by: Timm Borden, Interim City Manager

Attachments:

A – All-Inclusive Playground Feasibility Study, final, September 2018

B – Santa Clara County All-Inclusive Playground Grant (AIPG) Program Two Procedural Guide, September 11, 2018

C – Presentation to City Council, October 2, 2018

D – Resolution 18-100, adopted October 2, 2018

E – Conceptual Plan, Jollyman Park all-inclusive playground, October 2018

F – Santa Clara County AIPG Funding Agreement, 2019