

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED
MAY 16 2012

NO. 12-157

DATE May 16, 2012

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 7

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: HANSEN DAM PARK - DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER OF LOS ANGELES - RESCISSION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER; REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

R. Adams

H. Fujita

V. Israel

K. Regan

*M. Shull

N. Williams

Anf

Fernando D. Diaz (for)
General Manager

Approved

Disapproved

Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Rescind approval of Recommendation No. 2 of Board Report No. 12-001, approved by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) at its meeting of January 11, 2012, which approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Discovery Science Center (DSC) relative to the design, fabrication, and installation of exhibits and the operation and maintenance of a Children's Museum and Environmental Awareness Center at Hansen Dam (Museum), formerly known as the Children's Museum of Los Angeles facility;
2. Approve a proposed revised MOU, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, with DSC, relative to the design, fabrication and installation of exhibits, and the operation and maintenance of a museum at Hansen Dam Park, proposed to be called the Discovery Science Center of Los Angeles, subject to the approval of the Mayor and the City Attorney as to form;
3. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed MOU concurrently to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Direction No. 3, and to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2 NO. 12-157

4. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the MOU upon receipt of all necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

In Board Report No. 12-001, approved by the Board at its meeting of January 11, 2012, the Board approved a MOU with DSC relative to the design, fabrication, and installation of exhibits for the Museum and for the long-term operation and maintenance of the exhibits and the Museum facility.

Following the Board's approval, the MOU was transmitted to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, for review and approval. The City Administrative Officer (CAO) reviewed the agreement on behalf of the Mayor and recommended modifications to the MOU in order to elucidate DSC's fundraising responsibilities and the City's rights to the Museum and any capital improvements made to the facility.

Specifically, the CAO recommended that the MOU be revised to (1) acknowledge that DSC will be required to open the Museum no later than March 1, 2015; (2) recognize that DSC will be applying for New Market Tax Credits to pay for capital improvements to the Museum; (3) reaffirm that it will be the responsibility of DSC to identify funding for the long term operating and maintenance costs for the Museum; and (4) clarify that only the City has the right to sell or transfer the Museum.

Staff has made the recommended changes to the MOU and is now submitting a revised MOU for the Board's consideration and approval. Except as noted above, the terms, conditions, and provisions of the revised MOU remain substantially the same as those of the MOU that was approved by the Board at its meeting of January 11, 2012.

Environmental Review

Staff has determined that the project has been previously evaluated for environmental impacts in compliance with City California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, and the proposed new memorandum of understanding will not cause any additional adverse environmental impacts. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on May 24, 2000 in connection with the CMLA project, including the operations of the Museum facility. A Notice of Determination was filed with the Los Angeles City and County Clerks on June 20, 2000. The proposed operation of the Museum, under the terms of the Agreement, will not substantially change the scope of the original operational plan of the Museum, nor require any additional mitigation measures. Therefore, the previously adopted MND is still valid for this Agreement, and no additional CEQA documentation is required for Board approval.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3 NO. 12-157

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The approval and execution of the proposed MOU will not have any impact on the Department's General Fund.

This report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Management Analyst II, Planning, Construction Division, and Maintenance.