

APPROVED

MAR 05 2020

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 20-036

DATE March 05, 2020

C.D. 5

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WESTWOOD PARK – AIDAN’S PLACE PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT (PRJ21343) PROJECT – COMMITMENT OF PARK FEES – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 2 [REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING STRUCTURES WHERE THE NEW STRUCTURE WILL BE LOCATED IN THE SAME SITE AND WILL HAVE THE SAME PURPOSE AND CAPACITY], CLASS 4(3) [NEW LANDSCAPING] AND CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING], OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19 SECTIONS 15302, 15304(b) AND 15304(f) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	_____
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the scope of work for the Westwood Park – Aidan’s Place Playground Replacement (PRJ21343) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to commit from the following fund and work order numbers, a maximum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) in Park Fees, for the Project:

<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>FUND/DEPT./ACCT. NO.</u>	<u>WORK ORDER NO.</u>
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	QT061958

3. Find that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 2 [Replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located in the same site and will have the same purpose and capacity], Class 4(3) [New landscaping] and Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling], of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19 Sections 15302, 15304(b) and 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines, and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;

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4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and,
5. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Westwood Park is located at 1350 South Sepulveda Boulevard in the Westwood community of the City. This approximately 26.70-acre park features three baseball fields, two outdoor basketball courts, two children's play areas, outdoor fitness equipment, a dog park, eight tennis courts, a synthetic soccer field, an indoor gymnasium, and a swimming pool. Approximately 10,963 residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Westwood Park. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Westwood Park meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

PROJECT SCOPE

Aidan's Place, which opened on December 5, 2001, was the second universally accessible playground developed in the City. Aiden's Place is named for Aidan Gaffney, a young boy who had a rare muscular disorder that left him wheelchair-bound for much of his life, and who passed away just before his sixth birthday.

Aidan's Place was developed by RAP in partnership with the Gaffney Family and Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration. Aiden's parents, Nicole and Charlie Gaffney, helped raised funds for the development of this playground in honor of their son. The total cost to develop Aiden's place was approximately One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00). Aiden's Place was gifted to RAP by the Gaffney Family and Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration.

The scope of work for the proposed Project includes the demolition and removal of the existing children's play areas and the construction of a new children play area and equipment in the same location, as well as associated turf, hardscape, landscaping, and irrigation improvements.

PROJECT FUNDING

Upon approval of this Report, Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) in Park Fees can be committed to the Project.

These Park Fees were collected within five (5) miles of Westwood Park, which is the standard distance for the allocation of the Park Fees for community recreational facilities pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33 E.3.

The total amount of funding available for the Project is Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00).

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FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	\$750,000.00	100%
Total		\$750,000.00	100%

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified and construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to begin in May 2020.

TREES AND SHADE

The approval of this proposed Project will have no impact on existing trees or shade at Westwood Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and have the same purpose and capacity as well as of new landscaping and irrigation improvements. Therefore, RAP staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) determines that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 2, Class 4(3) and Class 4(12) of City CEQA Guidelines, and Article 19 Sections 15302, 15304(b) and 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this commitment of Park Fees will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund.

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Park Fees or funding sources other than the RAP's General Fund. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with minimal impact to existing maintenance service at this facility.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 1: Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

Outcome No. 2: Safe and welcoming environments at all parks

Goal No. 2: Offer Affordable & Equitable Recreation Programming

Outcome No. 1: Improved health and social equity for young Angelenos

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Result: The renovation of the existing playground will provide additional recreational opportunities for recreational activity for young Angelenos of all ages and abilities.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Acting Superintendent, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, Department of Recreation and Parks.