

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-035

DATE March 04, 2021

C.D. 5

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WESTWOOD PARK – AIDAN’S PLACE PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT (PRJ21343) PROJECT – COMMITMENT OF PARK FEES – STATUTORY EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 2(i) [ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR WHICH THE UNDERLYING PROJECT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN EVALUATED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AND PROCESSED ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF CITY OF LOS ANGELES CEQA GUIDELINES] AND SECTION 21082 OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

AP Diaz	_____	M. Rudnick	_____
H. Fujita	_____	*C. Santo Domingo	_____ <i>DF</i>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____

M. Stueck

 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn X

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to commit from the following fund and work order numbers, a maximum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) in Park Fees, for the Westwood Park – Aidan’s Place Playground Replacement (PRJ21343) Project (Project):

FUNDING SOURCE	FUND/DEPT./ACCT. NO.	WORK ORDER NO.
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	QM170851
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	QT061958

2. Determine that the proposed action, consisting of an allocation of funds for which the underlying Project has previously been evaluated for environmental significance, is statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article II, Section 2(i) [Allocation of funds for which the underlying project has previously been evaluated for environmental significance and processed according to the requirements of City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines] as well as Section 21082 of California Public Resources Code, and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;

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3. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and
4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections 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 in 2001, was the second universally accessible playground developed in the City. Aidan'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 passed away just before his sixth birthday. Aidan's parents, Nicole and Charlie Gaffney, raised funds for the development of this playground in honor of their son Aidan.

The scope of the Project, which was previously approved by the Board, on March 05, 2020, includes the demolition and removal of the existing children's play areas and the construction of a new children play areas and equipment in the same location, as well as associated turf, hardscape, landscaping, and irrigation improvements. (Report No. 20-036).

RAP staff has determined that additional funding will be necessary to complete the Project. Originally it was anticipated that only a portion of the play area would need to be renovated. However after additional review and further development of the project concept and various design options, Staff determined that a more extensive upgrade of Aidan's Place would be most beneficial for the community. The proposed additional funding will enable RAP to undertake a more comprehensive renovation and update of Aidan's Place and to provide additional play elements.

PROJECT FUNDING

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) previously approved the commitment of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) in Park Fees for the Project (Report No. 20-036).

Upon approval of this Report, an additional Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) in Park Fees can be committed to the Project.

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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, including previously committed funds, is One Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,350,000.00).

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	\$1,350,000.00	100%
Total		\$1,350,000.00	100%

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

RAP staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified for the construction of the proposed Project. At this time, it is not known when construction of the Project will begin.

TREES AND SHADE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed action consists of an allocation of funds for which the underlying Project has previously been evaluated for environmental significance and processed according to the requirements of City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines. As such, RAP staff recommends that the Board determines that it is statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Article 2, Section 2(i) of City CEQA Guidelines and Section 21082 of California Public Resources Code. RAP staff will file an NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

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.

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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

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, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

LIST OF ATTACHMENT

Attachment No. 1 – Board Report No. 20-036

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

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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.