

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Caroline Cheung via Clay Holstine, City Manager

DATE: Meeting of May 7, 2012

SUBJECT: Community Park Playground Replacement Project

PURPOSE: For children ages 2 – 12 to have a fun, inviting, and structurally-safe area in which to play, affording them the opportunity to remain active and healthy into adulthood.

RECOMMENDATION: Consider approval of the playground's design, the Mothers of Brisbane's fundraising program, funding sources of the Community Park Playground Replacement Project, and direct staff to put site preparation out to bid.

BACKGROUND:

At their June 20, 2011 meeting, the City Council was presented with three different projects within the Community, whose costs totaled more than the amount of funding available. At their June 20, 2011 meeting, the City Council suggested that the priority project be the replacement of the current play equipment in the Community Park. They also directed the Parks and Recreation Commission to work on a design for the playground as this fell within their purview.

Design of the Play Equipment

After meeting twice on the Community Park Playground Replacement Project where various designs were evaluated, the Parks and Recreation Commission decided to form a Playground Subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Bologoff and Marmion. The Subcommittee met a total of three times before returning to the full Commission to present the attached playground design along with a decision tree which evaluated the different options the existing funding could be spent on, depending on the age group the Commission wanted to serve (see Attachment 1). At these three Subcommittee meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission, representatives from the Mothers of Brisbane, staff, and the playground contractor Miracle Playsystems (at the last two meetings), were present.

Regional Sales Representative for Miracle Playsystems, David Yosso, along with Project Designer, Tracey Adams, worked with the Subcommittee to hone in on a design that was to the satisfaction of all who were in attendance at the last two Parks and Recreation Playground Subcommittee meetings. There are two phases which they proposed, Phase I replaces the current structure, and Phase II calls for utilizing approximately 2,000 sq. ft. of the grassy area closest to the playbox for a three-bay swing set. Due to grass not being considered an acceptable fall material, rubber surfacing was recommended. Similarly, the majority of the playbox's surfacing would also be poured-in-place rubber, with a dedicated section for sand play. A simple jug filler would be installed near the sand area, tied in with the existing water line, for the ability of having a dedicated water element for sand and water play. The placement of the jug filler meets the concerns of the City Engineer, whose staff routinely encounters maintenance issues with sand clogging the existing water fountains located outside the public restroom facility adjacent to the play structure.

The desire of the Commission and the Mothers of Brisbane (through an online survey conducted among their membership as well as the Brisbane School District – see Attachments 2 and 3) was to have two age-specific structures instead of a blended one, so the playbox will contain a structure designed for 2 – 5 year olds, and another for 5 – 12 year olds. Signage indicating such would also be installed by Miracle Playsystems near the two structures.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION:

At their meeting of March 14, 2012, the Commission evaluated the available funding (\$209,056.19) and unanimously voted to recommend to the Council that both Phases I and II of the proposed playground be built (see Attachment 4). The total cost of Phases I and II was approximately \$17,000 more than the funding available. Fundraising and in-kind contributions by local service organizations are two ways the gap in funding could be closed.

DISCUSSION:

On March 19, 2012, the Facilities Subcommittee of the City Council, which is comprised of Councilmember Conway and Mayor Pro Tem Miller, met to review the design and discuss the then funding gap of approximately \$17,000. At that initial meeting, staff presented the Subcommittee with the design, and the Subcommittee expressed that they would like to hear from the Mothers of Brisbane on their fundraising strategy.

The Mothers of Brisbane's Fundraising Strategy

On April 19, 2012, the Facilities Subcommittee met a second time where representatives of the Mothers of Brisbane presented their Fundraising Strategy (see Attachment 5). Also in attendance at that meeting were Commissioner Marmion, Commissioner Dunn, and a representative from the skate park. A sample set of 6", 9" and 12" lamacoid stars with

engraving were also presented, as the Mothers of Brisbane would “sell” these stars to the Community (see Attachment 6). Names of individuals or businesses which had donated to the new playground would be engraved on each star by Clearlite Trophies, a company based in South San Francisco. At this meeting, the question was asked whether Council had a policy precluding city parks from having individuals’ names associated with them. With the exception of Firth Park, no parks are named after individuals, and a resolution search determined that the Council had never formally adopted a resolution barring individuals’ names from being in city parks. Since the stars cost on average \$20 apiece, and the Mothers of Brisbane estimates selling 200 stars, in addition to seeing larger donations from corporations, an extra \$4,000 needs to be added to the total cost of the project. The stars would be featured on both sides of the 72’ long curvilinear seat wall, located near the swing set in Phase II.

Subsequent to the Facilities Subcommittee’s April 19th meeting, two more Council Subcommittee meetings took place, on April 26th and May 1st to look into how best to apply the stars and also, whether ceramic tiles would be a better alternative to the plastic stars. The City Engineer attended the April 26th meeting as well as the May 1st meeting to provide his recommendations to the Subcommittee. At the May 1st meeting, the Subcommittee decided that the lamacoid stars would be a better option since they are less costly as well as more flexible; it would be easier for the contractor to apply them to the seat wall. The Mothers of Brisbane were in agreement with this decision, as they had already begun “pre-selling” stars and had received many verbal commitments from residents and businesses in the Community. The City Engineer then recommended the stars be installed using a two-part epoxy, and that an overhang be incorporated into the horizontal seating surface to provide some protection to the stars.

Funding Sources and Estimated Cost of the Community Park Play Equipment Replacement Project

In terms of available funding, \$23,156.56 is available through a State Recycling Grant, \$25,899.63 is available from Dedicated Park In-Lieu Fees, and \$160,000 is available from Seton Medical Center Foundation. That total is \$209,056.19. The City is currently awaiting to hear whether it will be awarded a \$20,000 Construction Grant through the national non-profit organization dedicated to play, KaBOOM! That announcement will come on June 4, 2012. So far, the City has been recognized as a 2012 Playful City USA, which is a condition KaBOOM! has for a community receiving one of its twenty-five \$20,000 Construction Grants.

Miracle Playsystems has submitted a contract to the City which covers the cost of the play equipment, freight, installation (which includes the rubber surfacing of both phases, in addition to installation of the play equipment in Phases I and II), and a third party Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Inspection totaling \$153,903.38 (see Attachment 7). Miracle Playsystems, under the name Miracle Recreation Equipment, has a California Multiple Awards Schedule (CMAS) contract with the State, and pays a small fee for holding the contract (see Attachment 8). California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) offer a wide variety of products and services at prices which have been assessed to be fair, reasonable and competitive. The use of these contracts is optional and is