



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: November 18, 2008

Item Number: F-9

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Steve Zoet, Assistant Director of Community Services/Recreation and Parks

Subject: REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A PURCHASE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,132 TO GAME TIME FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT LACIENEGA PARK AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A "FIGHT OBESITY THROUGH PLAY" GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,854.55.

Attachments: 1. Photos of sample equipment problems

RECOMMENDATION

The City has recently identified certain play equipment as being unsafe by way of fencing it off from public use. To protect the city's interests and the welfare of the amenity's users, as well as to improve the aesthetics of the area, staff requests City Council approval to issue a Purchase Order to Game Time in an amount not to exceed \$52,132 for the purchase of identified playground equipment at La Cienega Park.

INTRODUCTION The existing playground equipment at LaCienega Park was installed in 1990 and has served its useful and anticipated life. Many components are in unsafe condition, have been rendered inaccessible from public use and can no longer be repaired due to the inability to obtain replacement parts from the manufacturer. From a liability standpoint, staff encourages the removal of identified components and the replacement of the

removed apparatus with some new equipment to allow continued and functional use of the area until such time that a longer-term view can be made with respects to a new Master Plan to better serve the park and its patrons.

DISCUSSION

Some of the play apparatus located within the LaCienega Park playground is in potentially dangerous condition due to vandalism and natural wear. Staff has taken the pro-active approach of rendering these components inaccessible by blocking off access through the use of construction fencing and other materials. Aside from being an aesthetic issue, staff are concerned that, although the above referenced efforts have been employed, young children may still access the apparatus and potentially injure themselves in its use due to the unsafe condition. Risk Management also recommends removal of these items and replacement of the same with new equipment.

Since LaCienega Park is hoped to realize implementation of the Master Plan in the coming years, staff are not proposing a more costly complete change-out of the existing equipment as that is presumed to occur as part of any future major park renovation. Staff does wish to assure, however, that adequate equipment exists to serve the community's needs in the interim as well as to meet certain requirements of our State-licensed child care programs that are housed within the adjacent community center.

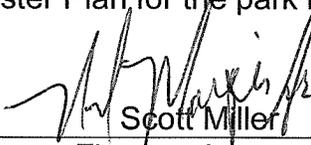
Staff is desirous of purchasing the play apparatus through Game Time, a nationally recognized manufacturer. In addition to the installed cost of the equipment being approximately 9% less than the next closest estimate, Game Time has committed \$18,854.55 towards the project through their Fight Obesity Through Play grant program. City Council acceptance of this grant would lower the cost of the project by approximately 20%. Approval and use of this grant towards the final cost of the project further defines Game Time as the most cost-effective bidder of this project. Additionally, they manufacture a product line most desired by staff to meet the needs of the park's users.

At the time of the budget's development and submittal, the full scope of damage and need for replacement of the play equipment was not known. Since that time, a further assessment has exposed the extent of the unsafe condition of several pieces of equipment and staff feels a more aggressive removal and replacement schedule is warranted. Risk Manager Karl Kirkman has been consulted on this matter and concurs that the City has an unnecessary liability exposure posed it due to the continued presence and condition of the equipment in question. He also concurs with the proposed removal of the identified pieces.

FISCAL IMPACT

Through the adoption of the current fiscal year's budget, Council approved \$50,000 in Capital Improvement Project financing for playground improvements (CIP #0903). The anticipated costs for the removal and replacement of the play

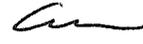
apparatus is approximately \$72,060. Staff propose an additional 8% contingency of \$5,765 for a total project cost of \$77,825 and further proposes that the additional monies necessary to complete the intended removal and replacement would come from monies that were originally appropriated for purposes of the Park Master Plan (CIP #0343) process and remain available for this purpose. There is \$150,000 budgeted for Fiscal Year 2008-09 in CIP 0343, and \$27,825 would be utilized towards the balance of funds needed to complete this project. Use of these funds in this capacity still has ties to the successful long-term Master Plan for the park by making it functional and safe in the interim.



Scott Miller

Finance Approval

Steve Miller



Approved By

Attachment 1

Photos of Sample Equipment Problems





