



REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Ferns Park Playground Rebuild, Project No. 08-02

Report in Brief

Parks and Recreation staff and the Project Play II Committee would like to update Council on the Ferns Park Playground Rebuild, Project No. 08-02, and discuss the approved design layout, implementation progress, and scheduled build days.

Background

The play structure at Ferns Park was constructed by volunteers in 1998 in a project titled “Project Play”. Unfortunately, the majority of the play structure was destroyed by fire, in early July 2007. In response, the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, and members of the community supported the rebuilding as a community-driven project with assistance from City staff, and the Ferns Park Playground Rebuild, Project No. 08-02 was created.

On July 31, 2007, Council approved a PPSS in the amount of \$125,000, and authorized staff to implement the project with the community group.

The City Manager executed a contract with Leather’s & Associates on September 4, 2007, for coordination and design of the new play structure.

Discussion

Implementation of this community-led project has been a major undertaking with the commitment to rebuild the structure before the end of the year. Projects of this magnitude typically take 6-8 months to plan, design, and construct, but the community has come together to ensure that the treasured play structure is rebuilt as quickly as possible.

A Project Play II Committee was established to coordinate the project, and the group has been meeting bi-weekly since early August. Coordinators were assigned different roles – Volunteers, Children, Fundraising, Materials, Tools, Childcare, Food, Public Relations, Design, and Construction - which contribute to the planning, design, construction, and closeout of the project. A Committee representative will be attending the October 16 Council meeting to provide information and answer any questions.

Design Day was held on September 5th with a representative from Leather's & Associates meeting with representatives of the Committee, Staff, and students from Whitehead and Zamora Elementary Schools. A community celebration was held that night, with Council Member Monroe in attendance, to unveil the new play structure design that was developed through collaboration with the community and school children. The new play structure will be awesome and will be a community-favorite for many years to come.

Leather's has refined the design and established a list of materials and final layout. The plan is attached for information. In conjunction with the new play structure, the existing, under-utilized alphabet maze will be replaced with a climbing rope pole, and the shade cover will be relocated to the existing seating area. The existing tot-lot wood play structure will be refurbished at the same time as the new playground is constructed, and the rubberized surfacing will be placed once the structures are in place.

The community build days are scheduled for October 31st through November 4th. Volunteers are still needed and anyone interested in helping can go to rebuildfernspark.com.

The park should be opened back up to the community by the end of November, assuming no weather delays associated with the rubberized surfacing.

Fiscal Impact

On July 31, 2007, Council approved a PPSS in the amount of \$125,000, and authorized staff to implement the project with the community group. The Parks Department continues to work with the insurance adjuster on the insurance claim, and Fund 091 has been set up for those funds. The understanding is that the insurance money will cover actual costs associated with replacement of the damaged structure. Almost \$6,600 in Woodland Recreation Foundation funds were left over from the original build and will be used to supplement the insurance funds. Donations continue to be solicited for many of the play equipment elements and these funds will be used to off-set the costs as well.

Measure E funds are programmed to cover the rubberized surfacing and refurbishment of the remaining structure and appurtenances, and may be necessary to cover any costs not reimbursed through the insurance claim. Staff will return to Council in November with an updated budget, once costs for the playground and surfacing and the insurance claim amount are known.

Public Contact

The project has been widely advertised in the local newspaper, at local businesses, and throughout the community by Committee members and others.

Commission Recommendation

In July, the Parks and Recreation Commission supported the rebuilding as a community-driven project.

Recommendation for Action

No action required – information item only to update Council on the Ferns Park Playground Rebuild, Project No. 08-02,

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Attachments:
Approved Design Layout

LEVEL SCHEDULE	
1	7'-1/4"
2	1'-4-1/2"
3	21'-3/4"
4	29"
5	36'-1/4"
6	43'-1/2"
7	50'-3/4"
8	58'-1/4"
9	65'-1/4"
10	72'-3/4"
11	79'-3/4"
12	87"
13	94'-1/4"
14	101'-1/2"
15	108'-3/4"
16	116"
17	123'-1/4"

