

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 04-281

DATE: September 14, 2004

C.D. 13

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: BELLEVUE RECREATION CENTER - OUTDOOR REFURBISHMENT
(W.O. # E170340F) - APPROVAL OF FINAL PLANS AND CALL FOR BIDS

* K. Chan	<u><i>Conf. KC</i></u>	J. Combs	_____
H. Fujita	_____	J. Kolb	_____
F. Mok	_____	G. Stigile	_____


_____ General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve final plans and specifications for Bellevue Recreation Center - Outdoor Refurbishment (W.O. #E170340F); and;
2. Approve the date for receipt of bids as Tuesday, November 22, 2004, at 3:00 PM, in the Board Office.

SUMMARY:

Submitted are the final plans and specifications for the Bellevue Recreation Center - Outdoor Refurbishment Project, located at 826 Lucile Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, 90026. This project is funded by Proposition K funds. Plans for this project were prepared by a consultant to the Department of Recreation and Parks, Cornerstone Studios, Inc. Their estimate for the construction cost of this project is \$1,400,000. The plans provide for outdoor park improvements, as generally listed below:

1. New walkway/jogging trail around perimeter of park.
2. Security lighting for pedestrian safety.
3. Refurbishment of two existing baseball fields.
4. New baseball field lighting. (Deductive Alternate #7)
5. Refurbishment of park irrigation system.
6. New basketball court lighting. (Deductive Alternate #3)
7. Replacement of existing drinking fountains. (Deductive Alternate #2)
8. Grading and drainage improvements.

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9. Refurbishment of existing playground area/new play equipment (Deductive Alternate #1)
10. New picnic pavilion and tables. (Deductive Alternate #5)
11. New batting cage located at northeast end of park. (Deductive Alternate #4)
12. New concrete sidewalk and retaining walls. (Deductive Alternate #6)

On August 19, 2004, the L.A. For Kids Steering Committee recommended the Board approve the project, as outlined above, for competitive bidding. However, previously at an earlier meeting of the Steering Committee, on July 29, 2004, many community members spoke both in favor of, and in opposition to, the proposed field lighting of the two existing baseball fields. The opponents of the proposed lighting expressed concern with both light glare and noise created by extended playing time on the baseball fields. The speakers also indicated that the lighting would increase use and create a greater parking issue at the park. The Steering Committee did not take an action at their July 29, 2004 meeting, to allow time for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) to review the matter and to meet with other park user groups to attempt to resolve the issues. The SLNC submitted a letter on August 12, 2004, which generally supported the overall project, with the exception of the sportsfield lighting, and asked for the City to form a new Local Voluntary Neighborhood Oversight Committee (LVNOC) to re-scope the project relative to the sportsfield lighting. This project was then revisited by the Steering Committee at their August 19, 2004, meeting. On that date, the Steering Committee approved the recommendation by the Bureau of Engineering to recommend to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners to move forward with this project as designed. To address the concerns of the community members who oppose the field lighting portion of this project, the Bureau recommended that the park staff and Council District staff work with the community members to determine an acceptable set time to shut off the field lighting, as well as other operational parameters. At the August 19, 2004, Steering Committee meeting it was determined that the Department of Recreation and Parks staff, the Municipal Sports staff, the Park Advisory Board, and the Council Office could work together to set hours of operation for the baseball field lights. The Steering Committee clearly indicated that they were of the opinion that the public process, required by the Prop K ordinance, had been followed. They also stated that there had been additional public meetings that had also been properly noticed and the intent of the City to include the public in the design of the project had been met. Therefore staff recommends that the Board approve the final plans as submitted and authorize the project be competitively bid at 3:00 pm in the Board Office on November 22, 2004.

The bid package has been approved by the City Attorney's Office.

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), staff has determined that the proposed improvements will not have a significant impact on the environment. This project has been determined to be Categorical Exempt per City CEQA guidelines Article VII, Section 1a (existing facilities). A Notice of Exemption was filed with the Los Angeles City Clerk's

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office on June 19, 2003, and posted by the County Clerk's office on June 20, 2003.

This report was prepared by Kathleen Chan, Acting Superintendent of Planning & Construction, Department of Recreation and Parks, and Alice Gong, LA for Kids Program, Bureau of Engineering.