



DATE: February 1, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Youth Commission

FROM: Donna Legge, Recreation & Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Grant Park Master Plan Task Force

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive staff report and recommend two Youth Commission representatives to serve on the Grant Park Master Plan Task Force

BACKGROUND

The recreation offerings at the Hillview Community Center included senior programs that were combined with a volunteer-based senior program at Grant Park when Hillview was closed in March 2019. The Grant Park Community Center is intended to be a shared attraction for the community, to include all ages, interests, and ability levels. The Grant Park Senior Program was initiated five years ago and will remain at Grant Park once the new Los Altos Community Center opens in the spring or summer of 2021. The original Hillview programs that were moved to Grant Park will return to the new community center, supporting senior programs at both locations.

Prior to the closure of the Hillview Community Center, there was an average of 56 participants that utilized two bocce ball courts. After Hillview closed and prior to the COVID -19 shelter-in-place orders, an average of 20 bocce ball participants, each week, utilized available courts at Cuesta Park located in the city of Mountain View – 2.4 miles or a 5-minute drive from Grant Park. The new community center will include two bocce ball courts.

The Los Altos Legacies and Rotary Endowment Fund offered to donate \$20,000 each (total of \$40,000) to fund the development of two permanent bocce ball courts at Grant Park. The City’s Donation Policy requires that any contribution greater than \$10,000, be accepted (or not) by the City Council. Due to the nature of the offer, staff recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as the Senior Commission, review the donation proposal and forward both recommendations to City Council.

Senior Commission Review

This item was discussed by the Senior Commission in January, February, and March 2020. Based on opposition to the bocce ball courts and comments during the public comment portion of the meetings, staff recommended that the Senior Commission consider a comprehensive public outreach process to determine the interest in bocce ball compared to other desirable amenities and priorities. Staff



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shared the park and facility improvements for Grant Park, that have already been identified by the City (Attachment 1). In consideration of the various improvements and the uncertainty that bocce ball was a preference, staff recommended that the Senior Commission consider the pursuit of a site-specific master plan for Grant Park.

At its regular meeting of March 2, 2020, the Senior Commission recommended that the bocce ball courts be included in a greater [Grant Park] master plan process.

Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) Review

When discussing projects and priorities, the PARC often emphasizes the importance of park improvements and amenities that can be flexible, multi-use and serves the greater population in the least amount of space. Parkland is a valuable commodity given the limited acreage (45 acres) the City has available.

At its regular meeting of July 8, 2020, the PARC appointed Commissioners Dailey, Morris and Yeh to serve on a Grant Park Master Plan Subcommittee to evaluate Grant Park and conduct a preliminary needs assessment, working with staff if/when a recommendation for a consultant is deemed appropriate.

At the PARC meeting on September 9, 2020, staff shared correspondence from the Los Altos Legacies, recognizing the impacts of the pandemic and other challenges being faced by the City, such as reduced city revenues, a large hit to city recreation programs and fees, moving into the new community center, and new council members. It was suggested by the Legacies that donation for bocce ball be tabled until the recreation department finds a new normal or when a Grant Park Master Plan is completed.

On October 14, 2020, the PARC made the following recommendations to City Council:

1. Authorize [staff] to produce a Grant Park Master Plan
2. City Council request that Legacies and Rotary are flexible in the allocation of monies offered based on the priorities of the Grant Park Master Plan.

City Council Direction

At its regular meeting of December 15, 2020, City Council received recommendations from staff, Senior Commission and Parks and Recreation Commissions.

1. Council directed staff to draft a letter on behalf of the City Council to thank and acknowledge the most recent offer of \$20,000 from the Los Altos Legacies and \$20,000 from the Rotary Endowment Fund and to defer further discussion as to the potential use of such a gift (donation) until after Grant Park priorities have been identified through a comprehensive public outreach process.



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2. Council recommended to proceed with a Grant Park master plan process to include CEQA guidelines and other applicable Land Use processes and regulations. Council also directed staff to work with representatives from the Parks and Recreation Commission, Senior Commission and Youth Commission to develop and bring back to the Council a scope of work, identifying minimum requirements and constraints, for the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a master plan for the exterior of Grant Park.

DISCUSSION

Staff is requesting that the Senior Commission appoint two representatives to the Grant Park Master Plan Task Force that will meet in February. The Task Force will provide input on the development of a scope of work to be included in a Request for Proposal that will be used to invite consultants to submit proposals and be considered for hire to facilitate a comprehensive public process and develop a site-specific master plan for Grant Park.

Scope of Work means a description of the work activities, deliverables, and/or timeline, to be performed by a contractor as set forth in a Agreement.

Request for Proposal specifies a scope of work that needs to be performed and solicits in response a proposal from the vendor describing how they would go about executing the project, including pricing information.

Site Specific Master Plan refers to a drawing that is completed or contemplated, with all the physical modifications shown or proposed. A site master plan shows all the facilities, the vegetation (existing and proposed), circulation routes (roads, paths, trails), service and maintenance areas, parking, playgrounds, and all appropriate accommodations. The steps in a design process may vary by designer but generally includes research, inventory, synthesis, preliminary design, final design, implementation, and evaluation.

Park and Facility Improvements Identified for Grant Park

2002 General Plan – Open Space, Conservation & Community Facilities Element

OCC 6: RECREATION PLAN

Develop and periodically update a Recreation Plan, which addresses existing and future facilities and services. In implementing and updating the plan, focus on retrofitting and improving the existing facilities and constructing new facilities in the most cost-effective manner. Improvements and new construction will implement requirements of the ADA.

- 6) Encourage use of community parks and facilities for cultural activities, special events and programs.
- 7) Adopt and maintain a capital improvement program for parkland acquisitions, improvements, existing park retrofits and recreational facilities, and a phasing schedule for commitment of resources including the design and construction of facilities.

OCC 8: RECREATION PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Provide a full range of recreational opportunities to serve the community.

- 6) Continuing work with the Hillview Senior Center and Garden House [Grant Park Seniors] to identify the available programs and facilities for seniors, and looking for ways to augment them where appropriate.
- 8) Developing new recreation programs to reflect the changing needs and interests of Los Altos residents.

2012 Parks Plan

Grant Park recommendations:

- Look for opportunities to provide shaded seating through planting of trees
- Complete the Grant Park Renovation CIP which includes replacing lighting, benches, and the pathway
- Complete the Grant Park Jogging Trail CIP

* The Parks Plan does not address recreation facilities, programs or events.

PARC Capital Improvement Program Recommendations

During the FY 2020-21 Budget & the Five-year (FY 2020-21 to FY 2023-24) Capital Improvement Program process, the PARC recommended the replacement of the Grant Park playground.

The playground equipment at Grant Park will be at the end of its 15-year expected life span. Pour in Place rubber should be considered as an addition to the playground to increase safety, increase inclusion for children with disabilities, and reduce maintenance costs.

The Grant Park playground renovation is scheduled for consideration in FY 2021-22. Park-in-lieu Funds in the amount of \$350,000 are allocated but require City Council approval.

City Council Capital Improvement Plan Priorities

At its regular meeting on September 24, 2019, staff facilitated the prioritization of the Capital Improvement Program with City Council. The following projects are listed as tabulated and approved by Council:

1. Police Department Renovation
2. Annual Pavement Improvement
3. ***Grant Park Community Center**
4. Los Altos Youth Center
5. Parks Renovation
6. City Hall Renovation
7. Garden House Renovation
8. Public Pool Study
9. Halsey House

*Staff has identified the following Grant Park Community Center and Park improvements that include, but are not limited to electrical upgrades, sustainable and efficient heating and cooling system, shade canopies, preschool room features, expansion of basketball courts, access to hot water (post COVID-19), storage, parking and consideration of a catering kitchen.

Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan

At a special meeting on April 22, 2020, the PARC approved the FY 2020-21 Work Plan and shared it with City Council at their joint annual meeting on May 5, 2020. The following playground projects could be considered at Grant Park:

Goal: Aim for high quality parks and facilities:

Project: Inclusive Playground Features - Explore additional inclusive features (1 or 2) at each playground.

Project: Outdoor Adult Fitness - Determine placement for inclusive outdoor fitness components and equipment for adults.