



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: JUNE 17, 2019**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 68 GRANT FUNDS

ISSUE:

Recieve an update on the State of California Proposition 68 grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive an update and provide feedback on Proposition 68 grant funds.

BACKGROUND:

On June 5, 2018, California voters passed Proposition 68, the Parks, Environment and Water Bond. Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects and flood protection projects. Multiple State agencies will administer and disburse funds generated through various grant programs. Agencies are in the process of developing draft grant program guidelines.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) has been actively researching and following the State of California's progress in developing the grant programs. PRCSD staff has reviewed draft grant guidelines that have been released on the State of California's website and attended meetings the State has held disbursing information in regards to the grant funding to be released. The State has released enough information to allow the PRCSD to identify grants that it will apply, plan on how to meet the State's grant requirements and prepare for the application process. The most competitive projects include community based planning and outreach, provide employment and volunteer opportunities, include partnerships or committed leveraged funding, are designed to utilize techniques that ensure efficient use of water and other natural resources, and are accessible to the public with generous open hours and are free or low cost.

On December 12, 2018 PRCSD presented an update to the Community Services and Youth Committee (CSYC) where CSYC members recommended grant applications be submitted for various districts to evenly distribute funds throughout all districts for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant. Many of the most competitive parks are concentrated in the Eastside Riverside area. Wards 6 and 7 lack competitive parks, and the parks available are not large enough to accommodate additional recreational features. Director Cruz is committed to investigating all possibilities to evenly distribute funds, but the Department

will select the most competitive projects, as this grant is highly competitive.

On December 17, 2018 the PRCSD presented the Park and Recreation Commission an initial update on Proposition 68. The PRCSD is committed to keep the Commission updated on the progress made on the grant application process for Proposition 68 funds.

DISCUSSION:

The application has been finalized and the application period has been open for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revalidation program. The PRCSD will submit applications for Low Park, Patterson Park and Myra Linn Park. Applications are due on August 8, 2019 to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Five community meetings were held for each park site per grant requirements. During community meetings, participants completed a questionnaire indicating what recreational, beautification and safety features they would most like to see in the park. PRCSD staff tallied the results to identify the top features. Each Park site received over 90 questionnaires. Input received from the community on recreational, safety and beautification features were incorporated into each concept level site plan.

Low Park

During the community outreach period, we learned that the community of Low Park, which consists of single-family residential homes, apartments, and businesses, had conflicting issues and concerns with the redevelopment of the park. The new Master Plan design tries to incorporate many new recreational amenities such as playgrounds, a walking/jogging loop, fitness equipment, and a basketball half court, while also preserving some of the open space and protecting as many of the existing large and historical trees as possible. We have also provided new ADA access to and around the site as well as interpretive signage around and leading up to the Parent Navel. The Prop 68 grant opportunity could provide the \$5,000,000 needed to implement this new Master Plan.

Myra Linn Park

Myra Linn Park is a heavily utilized park by its community, even though the existing site does not have sufficient amenities to support it. After receiving community input, we learned that the major issues that residents had were the parks lighting is inadequate, the parking lot is not large enough, and the existing large open greenspace is sloped/uneven making it impractical to play most group sports on. The new Master Plan design allows for an additional parking lot with the acquisition of two adjacent parcels, proposes a level soccer complex, creates an all-inclusive play space with splash pad and playgrounds, and expands the sports court area to include a pickleball complex. The Prop 68 grant opportunity could provide the \$8,000,000 needed to implement this new Master Plan.

Patterson Park

The major issues and concerns with Patterson Park are that the current facilities are minimal, underutilized, and in some instances, inaccessible. After meeting with many community groups surrounding Patterson Park, it was apparent that they wanted new features and amenities to reinvigorate the park. The new Master Plan design incorporates eight of the top features and amenities the community requested including: a basketball court, fitness nodes, playgrounds, shaded seating, picnic/bbq space, soccer fields, a walking/jogging loop, and a splash pad, all within a formal layout that provides each amenity plenty of space within the park. The Prop 68 grant opportunity could provide the \$6,500,000 needed to implement this new Master Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update.

Prepared by: Gabby Garcia, Senior Management Analyst

Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. Prop 68 Power Point
2. Low Park Site Plan
3. Myra Linn Park Site Plan
4. Patterson Park Site Plan