



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2020**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 68 STATEWIDE PARKS DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AND PER CAPITA PROGRAM

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the State of California Proposition 68 funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive an update and provide feedback on Proposition 68 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 regard to the grant funding to be released. Applications are being accepted for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program and Per Capita Program.

Statewide Park Development and Revitalization Program

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. The PRCSD added Myra Linn Park and Low Park to meet CSYC members' requests.

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.

On July 2, 2019, the City Council approved resolutions to apply for Statewide Park Development and Revitalization Program for Low, Myra Linn and Patterson Parks. City Council also approved Park Master Plans for each park. All applications were submitted but the grant was not awarded. The California Department of Parks and Recreation received 478 applications and awarded 62 applications.

On July 10, 2020, the California Department of Parks and Recreation notified agencies that another round of funding would be available for the Statewide Park Development and Revitalization Program. A total of \$395.4 million will be awarded through this round and applications must be submitted by December 14, 2020.

Per Capita Program

On June 24, 2020, the PRCSD was notified by California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) that it would be awarded \$177,952 through the Per Capita Grant Program, which allocates each qualifying agency a certain amount based on population. To be awarded funds, City Council must approve a Resolution by December 31, 2020, and an application must be submitted by June 30, 2021. Per Capita funds will be utilized to refurbish the turf at Bobby Bond Park.

DISCUSSION:

The PRCSD will re-submit applications for Low Park, Patterson Park, and Myra Linn Park. The Department conducted a meeting to identify strengths and weaknesses on their prior applications submitted with the CDPR. The CDPR was very positive on the quality of the application submitted, and the overwhelming number of applications and minimal funds available was the reason why applications were not awarded. The revision and resubmission of the previously submitted grants will allow the PRCSD to meet the short deadline. 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 each. 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 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 Proposition 68 grant opportunity could provide the \$5,000,000 needed to implement this new Master Plan.

Myra Linn Park

Myra Linn Park is heavily utilized 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 (2) 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 Proposition 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 Proposition 68 grant opportunity could provide the \$6,500,000 needed to implement this new Master Plan.

Bobby Bonds Park

The synthetic turf at Bobby Bonds Park needs to be replaced. User groups have complained about the state of the turf and are concerned about safety when playing on the turf. The Department has determined that if use continues, the field will eventually need to be closed off due to safety concerns. Approximate total cost to refurbish the field is \$578,435. The Per Capita grant would contribute \$177,952 to the project. The City Council allocated an additional \$285,345 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to the project, and CEDD has agreed to allocate \$116,000 in current unprogrammed CDBG funding to the Bobby Bonds Turf Project, for a total of \$401,345 in CDBG funds. The increase in funding is scheduled to go to City Council for approval on September 1, 2020. By allocating the necessary resources to the refurbishment of the field the PRCSD, CEDD and the City Council are continuing to support recreational opportunities and sports for the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Attachments:

1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Low Park Site Plan

3. Myra Linn Park Site Plan
4. Patterson Park Site Plan
5. Bobby Bonds Cost Estimate