

Staff Report

**AMES COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL CENTER
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FUNDING REQUEST**

September 10, 2013

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year the Ames Community Preschool Center (ACPC) purchased the former Willson-Beardshear school from the Ames Community School District. Prior to the purchase of this former school, ACPC staff contacted City staff about funding a playground structure for this site. In exchange for the funding, it was agreed that the playground equipment and passive/active recreational space (Attachment A) could serve as a neighborhood park when ACPC is not in session.

Staff presented this concept to the City Council during budget hearings in February 2013. Given the lack of funding from ACPC, Staff suggested that \$30,000 could be added to the Capital Improvements Plan to up-front the purchase of this playground equipment for ACPC. **The City Council approved setting aside the funding and directed staff to develop an agreement in which ACPC would pay one-third of the playground equipment cost. In addition, the agreement would confirm that ACPC would be responsible for installation and surfacing costs.**

Other than the City providing the upfront funding for the equipment, this arrangement is very similar to the City's agreements with the Ames Community School District. The City Council agreed to assist in funding playground equipment for the elementary schools because those sites have longed served as neighborhood gathering places. Since ACPC's property is a former school site, the justification for this arrangement is similar.

It should be noted that once the playground equipment is purchased, it will become the property of the ACPC. The City will have no responsibility to maintain, replace, or assume any liability for its use. However, the public will be allowed to use the equipment and the site will serve as a "neighborhood park".

In a letter dated August 23, 2013, ACPC asked the City Council to reconsider this funding arrangement based on unforeseen costs associated with their building project. ACPC is now requesting \$32,720 for the purchase of playground equipment, installation and surfacing, and suggested the City pay one-third of the total cost. Repayment would be made in two installments, one-half paid by June 30, 2014, and one-half paid by June 30, 2015.

CURRENT PROJECT COST ESTIMATES:

ACPC intends to purchase playground equipment (Attachment B) suitable for ages two to twelve. Following are cost estimates from the manufacturer. It should be noted these costs are good through September 2013.

Equipment	\$21,799
Installation	\$7,811
Surfacing (included Dina Mats)	\$3,110
Total Project Cost	\$32,720

FUNDING OPTIONS:

OPTION 1 (Original Concept)

- City up fronts up to \$21,799 for the purchase of the playground equipment only
- ACPC will reimburse the City one-third of the \$21,799 by June 30, 2014
- ACPC will be responsible for installation (\$7,811) and surfacing (\$3,110)

OPTION 2

- City up fronts up to \$32,720 for the purchase of the playground equipment, installation and surfacing
- ACPC will reimburse the City one-third of the equipment cost and 100% of the installation and surfacing costs by June 30, 2015

OPTION 3

- City up fronts up to \$32,720 for the purchase of the playground equipment, installation and surfacing
- ACPC will reimburse the City one-third of the total equipment, installation and surfacing cost (\$32,720). One-half is to be paid by June 30, 2014 and one-half is to be paid by June 30, 2015.

OPTION	TOTAL COST	CITY COST	ACPC COST	FULL PAYMENT TO CITY BY
1	\$32,720	\$14,533	\$18,187	June 30, 2014
2	\$32,720	\$14,533	\$18,187	June 30, 2015
3	\$32,720	\$21,813	\$10,907	June 30, 2015

STAFF COMMENTS:

The loss of an elementary school can have a negative impact on a neighborhood. With the closing of Wilson-Beardshear School, therefore, it is now more important than ever to those living in the Sunrise neighborhood that the City does all it can to replace that community asset with another one. An arrangement with ACPC to share in the cost to purchase a new piece of playground equipment, along with the authorization for the public to use this equipment and designated recreation space, should enhance this neighborhood. **Therefore, staff believes some type of funding partnership should be reached with ACPC.**

The City Council needs to decide whether or not to modify its position regarding this cost sharing arrangement as is now being requested by ACPC. However, in making this decision, it is important to know, that Options 2 and 3 will trigger City bidding requirements for the project as a public improvement, thereby increasing the overall cost of the project.

Ames Community Preschool Center

611 Clark Avenue

Ames, IA 50010

August 23, 2013

To: Mayor Campbell and City Council Members

From: Sue Wuhs—Ames Community Preschool Center

Re: CIP Playground Structure at ACPC new Building-920 Carroll Avenue

I am writing to ask your consideration for a change in an earlier motion in which Council had approved up to \$ 30,000 for a playground structure in this year's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). ACPC was going to be responsible for the total cost of the installation and surfacing in addition to paying for 1/3 of the structure.

Due to some unforeseen costs in our building project, we do not have the funds available this year to do all of this. I think Council would agree with us that a new structure at this time will benefit both the neighbors and ACPC. In light of our unanticipated costs which total more than \$10,000, we would like to first show you the true installation costs for the structure and then ask for a change.

The structure with taxes is:	Miracle Structure	\$21,799.11
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This Sale Price saves \$ 6500

Additional costs will include:

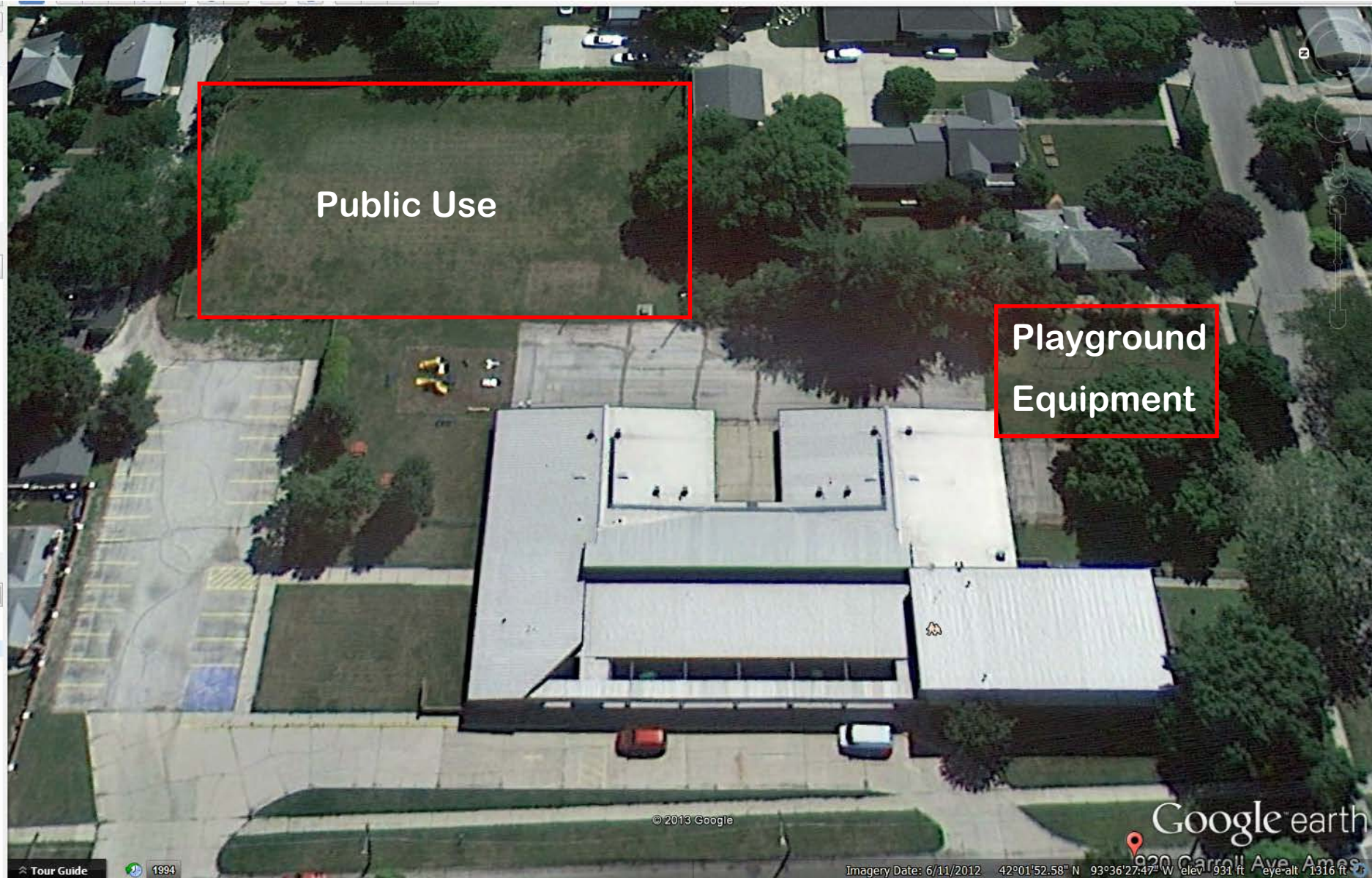
Installation of the structure	\$ 7811
Wood Fiber Surfacing	\$ 2147
Volunteers spread wood	
Dina Mats	\$ 963

Excavation (not included)

Our new total is	\$ 32,720.11
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In light of the actual costs plus our unanticipated construction issues, we would like to ask for council to approve funding of \$ 32,720. ACPC will pay back 1/3 of this amount (\$10,907) in two year increments with 1/2 paid by June 30, 2014 and the rest paid by June 30, 2015.

We appreciate your consideration for this change. To still get the sale price, we need to order now. The sale price was actually through August 30, but the representative was giving us some leeway for your time.



Public Use

Playground
Equipment

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Google earth

920 Carroll Ave Ames, IA

Imagery Date: 6/11/2012 42°01'52.58" N 93°36'27.47" W elev 931 ft eye alt 1316 ft

Tour Guide

1994

SALE PRICE
\$20,998

