

ITEM #: 18
DATE: 11-14-23
DEPT: P & R

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: AWARD CONTRACT FOR CHRISTOPHER GARTNER PARK
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

BACKGROUND:

Staff performs an annual evaluation of all playground equipment within each park. After each review, staff recommends which structures to be included in the five-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). Typically, each playground component is to be replaced every twenty years. The playground equipment in Christopher Gartner Park, 400 Abraham Dr., was included in the FY 2022-23 CIP for replacement.

Staff solicited qualified playground equipment representatives inviting them to provide proposals to replace the playground equipment in Christopher Gartner Park at the budgeted price of \$60,000 for installation and equipment. Staff received multiple proposals and evaluated them on the following criteria: safety; play features include balancing, spinning, sliding, climbing and swinging components; site compatibility; accessibility and inclusivity; supports physical, cognitive, and emotional/social development; cost vs. relative play value; unique play features and aesthetics compared to existing structures within the park as well as the overall park system.

The five vendors that submitted proposals are shown below:

1. American Playground Company, Des Moines, Iowa
2. Boland Recreation, Marshalltown, Iowa
3. Commercial Recreation Specialists, Verona, Wisconsin
4. Play Pro Recreation, Des Moines, Iowa
5. Outdoor Recreation Specialists, Gretna, Nebraska

Staff evaluated the multiple proposals and narrowed the proposals down to two options from Play-Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa. Residents were then asked to provide feedback regarding the playground proposals through a survey that was included in the weekly Parks and Recreation E-newsletter, which goes to over 12,000 emails. Over 200 households responded to the survey and submitted their preference of the two options shown in Attachment A.

Survey results from the residents favored Option 2 (120) over Option 1 (70) and 24 residents didn't have a preference. The survey also asked residents if they lived within walking distance of the park. Twenty-eight of the residents that answered the survey lived within walking distance of Christopher Gartner Park. Of those 28, 17 of them voted for Option 2.

There is \$77,400 available for a new playground structure, swing, concrete playground border, and engineered wood fiber safety surfacing. The cost of the playground and installation in Option 2 is \$60,000. The approximate cost for the concrete playground border and surfacing is \$17,400.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award contract to Play-Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa to purchase playground equipment (Option 2) for Christopher Gartner Park in the amount of \$60,000.
2. Award contract to Play-Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa to purchase (Option 1) for Christopher Gartner Park in the amount of \$60,000.
3. Do not award a contract at this time.
4. Refer back to staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Residents of Ames continually rate the playgrounds in the parks good or very good as part of the annual resident satisfaction survey. It has been apparent over the last couple of years how busy the parks have been. In an effort to keep playgrounds safe and enjoyable they need to be replaced on a periodic basis. The playground at Christopher Gartner Park has reached that point. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

[Christopher Gartner Park Playground Equipment Attachment A.docx](#)