

ITEM #: 19
DATE: 07-09-24
DEPT: P&R

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: BANDSHELL PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

BACKGROUND:

Park playground equipment is replaced approximately every twenty years according to a replacement plan maintained by City staff. Because some equipment gets used more than others, staff annually reviews all playground equipment to determine the condition of each piece of equipment and whether it should be replaced. After each review, staff recommends which structures should be included in the five-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The playground equipment in Bandshell Park, 125 E. 5th St., was included in the FY 2023/24 CIP for replacement.

Staff conducted a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting qualified playground equipment representatives to submit proposals to replace the playground equipment at Bandshell Park. The RFP stated that \$72,500 was available for playground equipment and installation. Staff received multiple proposals and evaluated them on the following criteria: safety; play features including 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 three vendors that submitted proposals are shown below:

1. Boland Recreation, Marshalltown, Iowa
2. Play-Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa
3. Cunningham Recreation, Charlotte, North Carolina

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Staff evaluated the multiple proposals and selected two options from Play-Pro Recreation and one from Boland Recreation to present for public feedback. Residents were then asked to provide feedback on the playground proposals through a survey that was included in the weekly Parks and Recreation E-newsletter, which is sent to over 12,000 emails. Additionally, staff presented the options at the June 6 Municipal Band Concert and the Juneteenth event on June 15 at Bandshell Park and asked visitors to those events to complete the survey. In total, almost 400 surveys were submitted regarding their preferences of the three options shown in Attachment A.

Survey results indicate that respondents favored Option 1 (226) over Option 2 (122) and Option 3 (24).

Seven respondents did not have a preference. The survey also asked residents if they lived within walking distance of the park. A majority of the individuals that responded to the survey did not live within walking distance of Bandshell Park (268). However, 111 of the respondents do live within walking distance of Bandshell Park.

BUDGET:

There is \$84,000 available for a new playground structure, swings, concrete playground border, and

engineered wood fiber safety surfacing. The cost of the playground and installation of Option 1 is \$72,440. The approximate cost for the concrete playground border and surfacing is \$11,500.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Play-Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa, to purchase playground equipment (Option 1) for Bandshell Park in the amount of \$72,440.
2. Award a contract to Play-Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa, to purchase playground equipment (Option 2) for Bandshell Park in the amount of \$72,440.
3. Award a contract to Boland Recreation, Marshalltown, Iowa, to purchase playground equipment (Option 3) for Bandshell Park in the amount of \$72,500.
4. Do not award a contract at this time.
5. Refer this item back to staff for further information.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Residents of Ames continually rate the playgrounds in the parks good or very good over 90 percent of time as part of the resident satisfaction survey. In an effort to continually provide excellent playground amenities that are safe and enjoyable, the equipment needs to be replaced on a periodic basis. The playground at Bandshell Park is heavily used throughout the year because of its close proximity to downtown Ames. It is time for the playground to be replaced and updated. Based on feedback from staff and residents, Play-Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa, provided the most desirable playground equipment proposal. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, as noted above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Attachmenet A - Bandshell Park Playground Options.pdf](#)