

## **REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2010**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER**

**BY: MEREDITH PETIT, RECREATION MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF THE SUMAC PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT AND AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK BIDS**

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At the City Council Goal Setting Workshop on March 11, 2009, staff received support from the City Council to move forward with the recommended improvements for Sumac Park, which would utilize approximately \$140,000 of the Quimby Fund for various enhancements. Staff's main priority was the replacement of the playground equipment, as well as the addition and replacement of benches, trashcans, and drinking fountains. We are proud to announce significant progress has been made to create a playground and park area where children and adults of all ages and abilities can have fun and be safe.

As with any major park improvement project, staff places high importance on engaging the community and seeking feedback. To that end, many opportunities were created and announcements were made on how residents could provide input, ask questions, and learn more about the project. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed that included two staff members, one representative from the Fountainwood Homeowner's Association (HOA) Board, and two residents, to represent the neighborhood. The committee provided staff with very insightful comments and opinions that will enable the City to provide the best possible solutions to fit the needs of the community and the park.

Furthermore, two public meetings were held; the first at Sumac Park on February 9, 2010, and the second at the Agoura Hills Recreation Center on February 13, 2010. Visual renderings of possible playground features were available, surveys were distributed, and frequently asked questions were answered. An extensive public outreach effort was employed to inform residents of the methods of providing feedback, including: flyers to all elementary school children, direct mailers to all Fountainwood HOA residences and a portion of Morrison Ranch HOA households, flyers to patrons of the Agoura Hills Recreation Center, printed articles in the local newspapers, posts on the City's website Calendar and News sections, and personal invitations to park visitors.

As a result of resident feedback and advice from professional contractors, staff has identified a list of preferred criteria to be included in the new playground:

- Play structure for ages 2-5
- Play structure for ages 5-12, with specific features to satisfy upper body strength development and more adventurous play (i.e. climbing wall, spinning apparatus, higher elevated slides, etc.)

- 2-Bay swing set w/ 2 bucket seats (ages 2-5) and 2 belt seats (ages 5-12)
- Adequate shade
- Segregated sand play area
- Natural color scheme
- Wood fiber or rubberized surfacing compliant with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Additional amenities to be included in the project include:

- 3 benches, with proper placement to provide the appropriate lines of sight for adequate supervision
- 2 drinking fountains, one of which is accessible for a person using a wheelchair
- 5 trashcans, to replace the temporary and unsightly cans currently in use

The Community Services staff has been working in cooperation with multiple City departments to ensure the highest safety measures have been considered. Currently, City engineers are assessing a potential drainage improvement project to take place in conjunction with the installation of the new playground equipment, and building safety officials will help facilitate compliance with all ADA requirements and monitor a final inspection of the playground prior to its grand opening to the public. In addition, the Community Services Committee has recently been updated on the status of the project, and continues to support its progress.

The estimated date of completion for the entire project is May 8, 2010. A detailed construction timeline will be available after the City has awarded the contract. At this time, staff is prepared to move forward by formally releasing a Request for Proposals to seek bids for the completion of the Sumac Park Playground Project.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council authorize staff to seek bids to complete the Sumac Park Playground Project.