

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Public Works
DATE: 9/24/19
SUBJECT: Rinconada Park Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is requesting that the Parks and Recreation Commission provide a recommendation to City Council to adopt the revised Parks Improvement Ordinance (PIO) for the Rinconada Park Improvement Project with the added fire pit area.

BACKGROUND

Capital improvement funding of \$1.7 million was approved by City Council to address current park improvement needs for fiscal year 2020. The improvements include infrastructure, accessibility and maintenance needs of the park. The proposed improvements were identified and supported by the community as part of the Rinconada Park Long Range Plan, which was adopted by City Council in the summer of 2017. The improvements of the existing two playgrounds and replacement of the existing asphalt walkways with concrete comprise the major budget items being addressed by the project scope. Park improvements are anticipated to begin in the fall of 2019 to coincide with the construction of the new Junior Museum and Zoo, which is anticipated to open in the summer of 2020.

Improvement Items Proposed for Rinconada Park Include (Attachment A):

- Playground & Tot Lot Renovation
 - Relocate Tot Lot Closer to Main Playground
 - All New Playground Equipment, Fencing, Rubber surfacing
- New Pathways
 - 12' wide main connection pathway
 - 8' wide connection pathways
- Site Furnishing Replacement
 - Picnic Tables, Benches, Water Fountain, BBQ's, Trash/Recycle Receptacles
- Picnic Areas
 - Renovate existing group picnic area
 - Create new picnic area at rear of JMZ at Playground
- Expansion of main turf area
 - New irrigation
 - Install drainage

- Renovate planting areas
 - Reduce small turf areas
 - Native/Habitat Planting
 - Pollinator Garden
- Directional Signage
- **Bid Alternate Scope**
 - Restroom
 - Fire pit area

For more information regarding the current Rinconada Park Improvement project please visit the project web page at: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/rinconadaplan>

For more information regarding the Rinconada Park Long Range Plan and process please visit the project web page at: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pwd/rinconadaplan.asp>

DISCUSSION

As one of the early community facilities in the Rinconada campus the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House has provided a location for troops to meet since 1926. As part of the Rinconada Long Range Plan a fire pit at the rear of the Hoover House was an adopted site feature. Unfortunately, funding for the park improvements did not include the fire pit in the scope of work for the upcoming park project. In response the Girl Scouts have approached the city with a current donation of \$5,000 and continue to seek further funding to add the fire pit into the scope of the upcoming improvement project. To assist with this process the city has worked with the Girl Scout Representatives to draft a fire pit area plan. The fire pit area scope of work would include: The removal of existing shrubs, regrading of the area, installation of a perimeter fence & gates, installation of prefabricated gas fire pit, gas safety shut off valve, concrete paving, decomposed granite paving and seating. The city recommends adding the fire pit area to the bid package as a bid alternate item and including it in the Parks Improvement Ordinance. If current project funding is unable to cover the remaining amount of work not covered by the amount donated by the Girl Scouts the fire pit area would not be included as an aspect of the project scope.

The fire pit would be primarily for Girl Scout use, with the city having the option of renting out the space to other groups or the community. The fire pit would not be for general everyday use, and will be in a locked gated area.

NEXT STEPS

- Bid Document Preparation: Fall 2019
- Council to Adopt (PIO) and Approve Contract: Fall 2019
- Bidding of Project: Summer/Fall 2019
- Construction Begins: Fall 2019

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed recommendations are consistent with Policy C-26 of the Community Services element of the Comprehensive Plan that encourages maintaining park facilities as safe and healthy community assets; and Policy C-22 that encourages new community facilities to have flexible functions to ensure adaptability to the changing needs of the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

An initial CEQA Study was prepared as an aspect of the Rinconada Park Long Range Plan. None of the proposed new improvements require further study and are exempt from a full CEQA review.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Proposed Fire Pit Area Exhibit
Attachment B: Fire Pit Cost Analysis
Attachment C: Revised Park Improvement Ordinance (PIO)

PREPARED BY

Peter Jensen
Landscape Architect
City of Palo Alto