
E L M H U R S T P A R K D I S T R I C T
B O A R D O F P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 11, 2019

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

FROM: James W. Rogers, Executive Director
Angela Ferrentino, Director of Facilities

RE: BERENS PARK SLED HILL IMPROVEMENTS

ISSUE

The objective of this project is to improve and enhance the sled hill at Berens Park by eliminating deteriorating fencing and rough, uneven terrain, and landscape that encompasses the sled hill to improve safety at the site.

DISCUSSION

The Berens Park sled hill is utilized by the community year round as a key recreational amenity providing sledding during the winter and as a unique component for fitness workouts during the rest of the year. The current terrain is not concave to provide adequate protection for users walking up; therefore, the project would include carving out/regrading the center to direct sledders down the middle. Other construction work includes: the partial or complete demolition of existing paths, fencing, and tree removal; and the construction of new chain-link fencing and handrails.

Discussions over the years with the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) resulted in staff (in 2015) removing bollards with chains originally placed to assist patrons walking up, but posed a risk to hill users if their sled went off course. Despite these measures, the potential risk remained. Therefore, staff pursued planned improvements to include re-grading the slope to improve the stability of the terrain, replacing the deteriorating perimeter fencing, and restoring the natural area surrounding the perimeter. Additionally, the plans include creating a berm along one side to provide protection and safe access for those walking up as well as carving out an area in the center to make it more concave leading to the (existing) level runoff at the end. The design also provides for safe use of mowing equipment for maintenance operations on the slopes. PDRMA reviewed the plans and stated the designs show the District has been “proactive [and has] addressed all areas of concern.”

Funds in the amount of \$35,000 were designated in the FY18 Capital Improvement Budget to hire an engineering firm to design and provide cost estimates for regrading the sled hill slope.

PHASE 1 FY 2018 - Completed

Outcomes of Phase 1 included:

- A topographic survey was completed
- Tree location survey
- Conceptual design studies
- Final construction documents including drawings and bid specifications completed by V3 Engineering

The engineering tasks and final construction documents completed during Phase 1 provided the foundation to propel the project into Phase 2 in guiding the site's redevelopment.

PHASE 2 FY 2019 - Proposed

Outcomes of Phase 2 will focus on construction:

- Eliminate deteriorating fence and replace with new
- Re-grading and restoration of the site to improve the stability of the terrain
- Adding hand rails to assist in walking up the hill

In 2018, \$25,000 was used to complete Phase 1 and the 2019 Capital Improvement Budget includes funds of \$200,000 for the completion of Phase 2.

Plans and specifications were developed and a legal ad was placed in the local newspaper on January 11, 2019 announcing the availability of bid packets and specifications for pick up at the Administrative Office and its availability electronically. Nine general contractors attended the pre-bid meeting on January 22, 2019. The bids were publicly opened on January 29, 2019. Eight of the nine contractors who attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting submitted bids. A copy of the bid tally is attached.

The lowest bidder for the Berens Park project is Misfits Construction Company of Chicago, IL with a bid of \$143,384.50. Positive references for Misfits Construction Company were received from the Forest Preserve of DuPage County, Village of Villa Park, and the Village of Downers Grove; furthermore, Misfits satisfactorily completed the District's Salt Creek Park batting cage project. The references supplied by Misfits Construction Company were relevant and justify that Misfits Construction can complete the scope of work for Berens Park sled hill project.

The Berens Park sled hill project is scheduled for March 4 through April 26, 2019. This project has an aggressive timeline and staff is satisfied that Misfits Construction Company is a reputable company that possesses the experience and capabilities to successfully complete the work in accordance with the required specifications and schedule. A records search has been completed with the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) and Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. with no violations found.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Park Commissioners (1) award the Berens Park Sled Hill Improvements Project in the amount of \$143,384.50 to Misfits Construction Company and; (2) authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract.

Thank you.

Attachments: Bid Tally Sheet