
**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
Daniel Payne, Director of Parks
Tom Shimko, Parks Supervisor

RE: 2019 INFIELD RENOVATION PROJECT

ISSUE

Due to high usage rates and challenging weather conditions, full infield renovations are recommended every five years to upgrade the surfacing and improve the conditions of play for both in-house and affiliate leagues. Infield renovations are essential for accomplishing the Vision 2020 Strategic Theme of Meeting Community Need for Parks, Open Space, and Outdoor Amenities.

DISCUSSION

During the spring, summer, and fall seasons, Berens Park ballfields 1-4 and the Van Voorst Park ballfield are used on a daily basis for both in-house and affiliate league play. Following rain events, these five fields require significant staff time and materials to make them playable and often remain closed for multiple days. The proposed project consists of sod cutting the infield radius, adding and spreading new infield mix, grading and rolling the infield along with repairing the batters boxes as well as alternates for new home plates and base pegs. The new infield mix will aid in reducing dust and drains and dries quicker than traditional infield mix following rain.

Bid specifications were developed and requests for sealed bids were advertised through a legal notice in a local newspaper on January 9, 2019 and a public bid opening was held on January 28, 2019. Eleven bid packets for the project were picked up by and sent to contractors with two contractors submitting sealed bids. The bid tally sheet is attached.

Continental Construction was the lowest bidder at \$63,000. Staff reviewed their qualifications and checked references. Two of the three projects referenced on the submitted bid documents were for drainage improvements and concrete work, while the remaining one focused on outfield drainage repairs and sodding along with the restoration of the infield. After a thorough review and conferring with District attorney, Andrew Paine of Tressler, staff recommends rejecting the bid submitted by Continental Construction due to their lack of experience with the specific work required in the scope of the project.

Therefore, staff is recommending Sportsfields, Inc. for the project in the amount of \$74,700. Sportsfields has satisfactorily completed infield renovations for the District in the past including all four baseball fields at Butterfield Park and Conrad Fisher Park ballfield #1. Sportsfields renovated and installed athletic fields for over thirty park districts, twenty high schools, and twenty baseball associations around the Chicagoland area. Positive reference checks were received from the Naperville and West Chicago Park Districts. A records search completed with the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) found no violations.

Funding for the infield renovations are available in the amount of \$42,500 in the Capital Improvement Fund while the total project cost for the five infield renovations is \$74,700. Despite being over budget, staff is recommending pursuing the project and utilizing \$32,200 of contingency funds from the FY19 Capital Fund (total budget \$75,000) in order to complete this critical work and improve the quality of some of the District's most heavily used ball diamonds.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Park Commissioners (1) reject the bid submitted by Continental Construction as not responsible; (2) reject Alternates #1 and #2; (3) award the base bid for the 2019 Infield Renovation Project to Sportsfields, Inc. in the amount of \$74,700; (4) authorize the use of contingency funds totaling \$32,200; and (5) authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract accordingly.

Thank you.

Attachments: Bid Tally Sheet