

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: David N. Carmany, City Manager *AK For DNC*

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: June 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Acceptance and Usage of a Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Grant for \$150,000 and Authorization for the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute All Grant Related Documents

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council a) approve park projects that qualify for the \$150,000 Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space grant; b) authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute all grant related documents; and c) appropriate \$150,000 from the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

If the grant application is approved by the County, the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Fund will receive \$150,000 for the selected project(s). In that event, staff recommends that the City Council authorize a budget adjustment recognizing the additional revenues to the CIP Fund, as well as appropriating the funds for expenditure, for \$150,000. Additionally, it should be noted that some potential projects will incur sustained operational and maintenance costs yet to be determined.

BACKGROUND:

Attached is a letter from Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe informing the City that a grant of \$150,000 is available from the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District (Attachment A). The grant can be used for park and recreation improvement projects or open space acquisition projects. The attachment to the supervisor's letter provides examples of eligible projects:

- Play equipment
- Permanent tarps over play equipment for shade
- Exercise par courses
- Tennis court and ball field refurbishment
- Tree planting
- Picnic shelters
- Community gardens
- Upgrading lighting or a pool pump

The grant funds must be used on capital improvements; they cannot be used for non-stationary equipment, staffing, maintenance or programming.

DISCUSSION:

Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff met and developed a list of projects that qualify for the County grant. Below is a list of non-prioritized projects that were reviewed and discussed with the Parks and Recreation Commission at their June 14th special meeting:

- Marine Avenue Park Soccer Lighting - \$85,000
A lighting study was completed for Marine Avenue Park soccer field and the results showed that the light levels are 2/3 below the recommended standards. Staff is receiving complaints from field users, and within the next year will need to take action to remedy the situation.
- Begg Pool Shower Facility Water Heater Replacement - \$10,000
The water heater for the Begg Pool showers has broken down three times since February. City and school district staff anticipate that it will not be long before a permanent failure takes place. The water heater replacement was not included in the major CIP that was recently approved by Council.
- Begg Pool Pump Room Upgrades - \$10,000
Another major piece of equipment that is old and will need replacing within a couple of years is a new pool heater and sand filter for the pump room. This was not included in the CIP that was approved by Council.
- Marine Avenue Park Soccer Field Synthetic Turf - \$150,000
The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) has been working with City staff for the donation of synthetic turf for the Marine Park soccer field. The process has been stopped as AYSO is asking in the draft agreement for the City to cover unexpected contingencies and cost overruns after the bid process and fundraising has been completed. City staff has said no to committing funds for the project as there was no money in the CIP fund.
- Manhattan Village: Replace Existing Fencing - \$80,000
Fencing at the soccer field is over 15 years old and requires replacement.
- Manhattan Village: Replacing and Raising Height of Fencing on West Side of Field - \$125,000
When the Manhattan Village soccer field is used in an east/west direction soccer balls have gone over the 16 ft. fence that divides the field and the Senior Villas parking lot. The seniors have approached City Council several times stating damage to their cars. Staff hung a 4 ft. net extension above the fence but that is not containing all the soccer balls. Staff believes a 25 ft. fence is needed to contain the soccer balls in the field.
- Polliwog Park Lighting and Electrical Upgrades - \$150,000+
Electrical work around the pond and poles need replacement for both safety and operational needs.
- Marine Avenue Park Fencing - \$125,000
The replacement of fencing around the perimeter of the park, baseball and soccer fields.

- Training Room at Begg Pool – \$55,000

A training room at Begg Pool is needed for the swim team, Jr. Guard program, and staff training and development.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the project list and after a lengthy discussion recommended that the grant be applied to the following:

- 1) Marine Avenue Park soccer lights (\$85,000);
- 2) Begg Pool water heater replacement for showers (\$10,000); and
- 3) Training Room for Begg Pool swim team, Jr. Guard program and staff training (\$55,000).

Staff also heard from representatives from AYSO who have expressed that the entire \$150,000 be used toward the Marine synthetic soccer field contingencies to get that project on track, although there are other issues in the MOU that will need City Council direction.

CONCLUSION:

As stated in the letter from Supervisor Knabe, the County is asking for the City's recommendations by June 30, 2011. Staff recommends that City Council discuss the possible projects for the Parks and Open Space grant and provide direction.

Attachment: A. Letter from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

827 KENNEDY HALL HALL OF ADMINISTRATION LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
Telephone (213) 974-4444 FAX (213) 626-6941

DON KNABE
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

May 31, 2011

The Honorable Richard P. Montgomery
Mayor
City of Manhattan Beach
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, California 90266

Dear Richard:

I am pleased to inform you that I have authorized your City to receive a grant of \$150,000 from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD). The grant may be used for park recreation, open space acquisition or improvement projects of your choice.

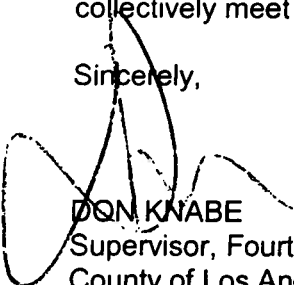
I believe that our Fourth District cities should be given the discretion to meet your highest priority recreational capital project needs, whether it be used for playground enhancements or trail projects or soccer fields. I know that funds are limited in these tough economic times, and I hope this grant will help enhance the parks and open space of your City.

The \$150,000 grant will be administered under existing guidelines by the RPOS. **Once the allocation of these funds has been formally approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, RPOSD staff will contact your staff to set up the grant.** The estimated time frame for the grants to be approved is August 2011.

I would appreciate hearing from you or your staff by June 30, 2011 on how your City has decided to use these funds. Also, when the project of your choosing is nearing completion, I would appreciate being notified. Please contact my Parks Deputy, Mrs. Erin Stibal, at (562) 804-8208 or Estibal@lacbos.org if you have any further questions.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your City Council colleagues as we collectively meet the recreational and open space needs of our residents.

Sincerely,



DON KNABE
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of Los Angeles

DK:co

Attachment

c: Each Councilmember
City Manager

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING PROP A "CITIES" ALLOCATION

The "Cities" funds must meet Proposition A guidelines for park projects including acquisition, development and rehabilitation. Suggested eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Play equipment at one or more parks
- Permanent tarps over play equipment areas (sun shielding)
- Exercise par courses
- Ball field refurbishment
- Tennis court refurbishment
- Tree planting
- Trails refurbishment or expansion
- Changing chain link fences to wrought iron
- Picnic Shelters
- Put in a community garden
- Upgrade lighting or a pool pump

The funds must be used on a capital improvement; they cannot be used for equipment (unless stationary), staffing, maintenance or programming.

Once the Board of Supervisors approves the allocation to your City, your staff will be contacted by RPOSD staff to proceed with the application process. This consists of an application (which can be found at <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>), budget proposal, timelines, and resolution. Once the application materials are reviewed by RPOSD staff for eligibility and completeness, the funds will be made available for your City.

If you have any questions about Proposition A eligibility requirements or the application process, please contact Perlita Flores, Program Manager at (213) 738-4251, or Ilona Volkmann, District Administrator at (213) 738-2981, of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.