



DATE: August 12, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 3

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Donna Legge, Recreation & Community Services Director

**SUBJECT:** Bocce Ball Courts Donation Offer

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive a report by staff and forward a recommendation to City Council to accept or not accept the conditional offer of \$50,000 by December 31, 2020, from the Los Altos Legacies and Rotary Endowment Fund to build two bocce ball courts in Grant Park

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### **BACKGROUND**

Prior to programs being vacated from the Hillview Community Center (Hillview) in March 2019, there was an average of 56 participants that utilized two bocce ball courts on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, on an informal, drop-in basis. After Hillview closed [and prior to the COVID -19 Shelter-in-Place Orders], an average of 20 bocce ball participants, each week, utilized available courts at Cuesta Park located in the city of Mountain View – 2.4 miles or a 5-minute drive from Grant Park.

The Los Altos Legacies representative King Lear spoke during the public comment portion of the Senior Commission meeting on October 7, 2019, proposing to fund the development of two permanent bocce ball courts at Grant Park with a \$20,000 contribution. In addition, King spoke during the public comment portions of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on October 16, 2019 and the City Council meeting on October 22, 2019.

During the public comment portion of the Senior Commission meeting on December 2, 2019, King announced that the Los Altos Rotary Club Endowment Fund (**Rotary**) matched the Legacies' donation of \$20,000, proposing a \$40,000 donation for new bocce ball courts at Grant Park (Attachment A).

Per the current Donation Policy, any contribution made to the City of Los Altos valued to be greater than \$10,000, the acceptance (or not) of the contribution shall be placed upon the agenda of the City Council for its consideration. A letter to the donor(s) shall be sent following the Council's action, informing the person(s) of the Council's decision. Due to the nature of the offer, staff recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as the Senior Commission, review the donation proposal and forward recommendations to City Council.

At its regular meeting of December 11, 2019, the PARC recommended that the Senior Commission review the bocce ball proposal and forward a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission at a future meeting.

On January 6, 2020, staff presented an analysis of the proposal to the Senior Commission, including six optional locations for placement in Grant Park with an estimated cost of \$56,925

(Attachment B). This includes public outreach, Commission and City Council meetings, design, construction, grading, drainage, and a contingency. The estimate was based on the cost of the two courts being proposed at the new Los Altos Community Center. Additional costs may be incurred for surveying and soil testing. The estimate does not include shade structures (Attachment B).

The Senior Commission recommended to form a Bocce Ball Subcommittee to evaluate the issues pertaining to bocce ball courts being proposed in Grant Park.

At its regular meeting on February 3, 2020, the Senior Commission further discussed the Bocce Ball proposal. The following recommendations were made:

1. Locate the proposed bocce ball courts appropriately in Grant Park.
2. Facilitate a survey to determine interest in bocce ball and other activities.
3. Dissolve the Bocce Ball Subcommittee previously established.
4. Accept the proposal of building Bocce Ball Courts at Grant Park
5. Schedule the further discussion of the Bocce Ball Court proposal at the next Senior Commission meeting on the March 2, 2020

At its regular meeting of March 2, 2020, the Senior Commission further discussed the Bocce Ball proposal and recommended that the bocce ball courts be included the greater master plan process.

## **DISCUSSION**

A regular discussion by the PARC includes what types of amenities would serve the greater population for the least amount of space that is a valuable commodity given the limited acreage (45 acres) the City of Los Altos has available as parkland.

Based on the number of park and facility amenities that have been identified, and a desire of the community to create a destination in the southern portion of the Los Altos, staff is recommending that City Council approve engaging a landscape architect/park planning consultant to prepare a Grant Park Master Plan including a comprehensive public process to determine short and long-term priorities for desirable park amenities in Grant Park.

At its regular meeting of July 8, 2020, the PARC appointed Commissioners Dailey, Morris and Yeh to serve on a Grant Park Master Plan Subcommittee to evaluate Grant Park and conduct a preliminary needs assessment, working with staff if/when a recommendation for a consultant is deemed appropriate.

Recent correspondence from King Lear, provides an update on an increased offer of \$50,000 from the Legacies and Rotary (Attachment C). As outlined in the letter, the Legacies is committing \$30,000 to be accepted prior to December 31, 2020. If the City does not accept the offer by that date, the conditional offer will expire.

Staff recommends that the PARC forward a recommendation to City Council to accept or not accept the conditional offer of \$50,000 from the Los Altos Legacies and Rotary Endowment Fund to build two bocce ball courts in Grant Park, by December 31, 2020.

Attachments:

- A. December 2019 Donation Letters from Legacies & Rotary
- B. Bocce Ball Location Options & Estimate
- C. July 2020 Donation Offer Letter from Legacies