



City of Culver City

Mike Balkman Council
Chambers
9770 Culver Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Staff Report

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Item #: A-1.

Receipt and Discussion of a Report from Johnson Favaro Regarding the Future of Veterans Memorial Park and Bill Botts Fields at Culver City Park.

Meeting Date: January 9, 2024

Contact Person/Dept: Adam Ferguson/ PRCS

Phone Number: (310) 253-6685

Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒

General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☐

Attachments: Yes ☐ No ☒

Public Notification: (E-mail) Meetings and Agendas - Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission (12/21/2023); (E-mail) Parks, Recreation & Community Service Department Updates (12/21/2023)

Department Approval: Ted Stevens, PRCS Director (12/21/2023)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission receive and discuss a report from Johnson Favaro regarding the future of Veterans Memorial Park and Bill Botts Fields at Culver City Park.

BACKGROUND

At the City Council Meeting on May 8, 2023, the City Council directed staff to proceed with an expedited request for proposals (RFP) for a feasibility study for Bill Botts Fields and Veterans Memorial Park (to include Veterans Memorial Building, the Plunge, and other structures at the site). A park feasibility study is a financial study that determines the viability of a specific park and/or facility. The study can include a vision for the park and/or facility, what the organizational success looks like for the park and/or facility, and the community needs in support of the project. An assessment of the park and/or facility would take place and recommendations for needed changes would be offered. A feasibility study that presents a variety of options, such as 1) general cosmetic changes; 2) a medium upgrade with invasive changes and some renovations; and, 3) a full overhaul of the park and/or facility) would allow the City Council to compare and eventually choose a cost level that it believes will be feasible and acceptable to the community, should the City Council seek to

move forward with the improvements.

Evaluation criteria for the feasibility study consultant included demonstrated understanding of the project's objectives, scope, and goals; qualifications and experience with similar projects; cost; efforts to service underrepresented populations and disabled communities; and efforts to identify and apply creative, non-traditional, and diverse opportunities for community engagement. Johnson Favaro was rated highest overall based on the criteria. Staff presented its recommendations to the City Council on August 14, 2023, and City Council approved Johnson Favaro to be the consultant on the project.

Johnson Favaro divided their work into three stages: Discovery, Options and Recommendations. During the Discovery Stage, the principals in charge of the project met with various groups that included sports organizations, arts organizations, facility user groups, non-profits, the Culver City Historical Society, City staff, and the Ad Hoc City Council Subcommittee, comprised of Mayor Vera and Council Member O'Brien. On October 19, 2023, and December 9, 2023, community meetings were held in the Veterans Memorial Building auditorium allowing community members to provide input on the future of these sites. In addition, the community was able to provide feedback through an online survey that was available October 5 through December 1, 2023. The survey was submitted by 646 people and the results are currently being analyzed.

DISCUSSION

Now in the final stages of their project, Johnson Favaro has met with City staff to discuss and analyze the various options that can be included at each site. Johnsons Favaro will present to the Planning Commission on January 24, 2024. The final community meeting will be held on February 8, 2024, at Veterans Memorial Auditorium at 6:00 P.M.

Representatives from the design firm Johnson Favaro will be present to discuss the options for Veterans Memorial Park, Veterans Memorial Building and Bill Botts Fields at Culver City Park and to hear feedback about these options from members of the PRCS Commission.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

There is no fiscal impact associated with the discussion.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

MOTION

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

Receive and discuss a report from Johnson Favaro regarding the Future of Veterans Memorial Park and Bill Botts Fields at Culver City Park.