



City of Culver City

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

Staff Report

File #: 24-657, **Version:** 1

Item #: P-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 24, 2024

Contact Person/Dept: Adam Ferguson/PRCS and Emily Stadnicki/Planning and Development

Phone Number: (310) 253-6685/(310) 253-5727

Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒

General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☐

Public Hearing: ☐ **Action Item:** ☒ **Attachments:** ☐

Public Notification: (E-Mail) Meetings and Agendas - Planning Commission (01/19/2023);

Department Approval: Mark Muenzer, Planning and Development Director (01/18/2024)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning 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 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 Council Members Vera and O'Brien. On October 19, 2023, the first community meeting was 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 opened on October 5, 2023, and closed on December 1, 2023.

DISCUSSION

Now in the Options stage of the project, the consultant has met with City staff to discuss and analyze the various options that can be included at each site. On December 9, 2023, the second community meeting was held at the Veterans Memorial Building auditorium to receive input from the community about the options and concepts that Johnson Favaro presented for the sites. In addition to the community meeting, the consultant has given presentations to the Cultural Affairs Commission and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission and received feedback from both during the Options Stage of the project.

The final community meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM at Veterans Memorial Building's auditorium.

Representatives from the design firm 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 the Planning Commission.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

There is no fiscal impact associated with the discussion.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

MOTION

That the Planning Commission:

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