



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
June 25, 2019

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Todd Rogers
Vice Mayor Jeff Wood
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Ron Piazza

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 68 COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BLOOMFIELD PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Valarie Frost, Director of Recreation and Community Services, explained that Kevin Bright, Assistant Director of Recreation and Community Services, would be presenting a report on behalf of Alex Bauman, Community Services Manager, who was currently out of the office. She introduced staff members Joe Vasquez, Kelly Garnetti, Jonathan Gorne, Irving Montenegro, and Veronica Ramirez, who were all involved in the grant development process.

Mr. Bright displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda. He provided an overview of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program and stated the City was eligible to apply for competitive grant funding from California Proposition 68 voter-approved funds to develop, restore, rehabilitate, or improve existing parks, recreational facilities, and trails in areas that had less than three park acres per 1,000 people and/or the median household income was less than \$51,026 within a half-mile radius of the determined project site. He reported that City staff had conducted three community meetings presenting suggestions for a facility revitalization project at Bloomfield Park and soliciting new ideas from those in attendance noting that feedback and suggestions from residents, local school children and Special Olympics participants were documented. He explained that the proposed renovation project included needed improvements as well as new amenities for the benefit of the community and that based on resident and participant input, facility improvements and/or enhancements that were proposed included school-aged playground replacement; baseball diamond renovation and additional field lighting; ADA compliance upgrades and interior renovations for the park office and community building; new utility shed; parking lot upgrades and additional lighting; new synthetic turf soccer field with walking track, sports lighting, and restroom building; no-climb security fencing along the Los Angeles County flood control; and a combination batting cage, putting green and bocce court facility. Mr. Bright stated that with one remaining community meeting, staff would be able to present a formal project plan and if needed, make revisions should those in attendance present new or opposing ideas. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council approve the proposed facility improvements and/or enhancements for Bloomfield Park and request the maximum grant award of \$8,500,000 as part of the City's California Proposition 68 competitive grant application.

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 68 COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BLOOMFIELD PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT - Continued

In response to Vice Mayor Wood's inquiry regarding results of the application, Mr. Bright indicated that a liaison would be assigned to the City. Ms. Frost added that there would be an opportunity to have the application reviewed prior to submission.

Ms. Frost responded to Vice Mayor Wood's questions pertaining to the outreach efforts and the timing of the notices by stating that the community meetings were offered on a weeknight and a Saturday morning and that the invitations had been sent three weeks prior to the first meeting.

Responding to Council Member DuBois' query pertaining to the limited attendance at the community meeting, Ms. Frost stated that additional notifications could be mailed out to try to encourage additional turnout.

Council Member Piazza inquired whether the opportunity for a nature area would increase the likelihood of obtaining the grant. Mr. Bright replied that the merit of the design, presenting a well-conceived recreational opportunity and demonstrating how it would best meet the needs of the public in the immediate area of the facility would be most advantageous in garnering points.

Mr. Bright answered questions from Council Member Croft by acknowledging that the types of programming at the park, such as for adaptive recreation, could be a factor in the State's determination particularly in the underserved aspect of such programs.

Ms. Frost indicated, in response to Mayor Rogers' questions, that the State's assessment of applications likely took into account such factors as determining how facilities would be used most efficiently and would not necessarily look less favorably on improvements benefitting staff since such changes might include accessibility enhancements or new spaces that would support park programs and services. She further responded that the evaluation of applications would be conducted by the Office of Grants and Local Services staff. She stated that Palms Park did not qualify due to the adjacent areas of a green space of the neighboring school.

Ms. Frost explained that attendance at the statewide training and orientation sessions added to the points earned towards each application and it was learned during such training that if there were areas of green space nearby that might count against a city's submission, a request could be made for reevaluation and an adjustment to the formula could be made based on geography.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, IT WAS SO ORDERED.

CLOSED SESSION:

At 6:32 p.m., Mayor Rogers announced that the City Council would recess to a closed session.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6
Designated Representative: City Manager, Office of the City Attorney, and Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Director of Administrative Services, Assistant to the City Manager, Human Resources Manager, Personnel Technician
Employee Organization: Lakewood City Employees' Association

At 7:19 p.m., the City Council reconvened and the City Attorney advised that there was no action to announce.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk