

City Council Staff Update

August 25, 2020



To: Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Allison Van Guilder, Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Director

Subject: Columbia Park Master Plan Update

Proposition 68 Grant Funding

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020, staff participated in a conference call with Townsend & Associates who assist the City with various grant applications. Their expertise in understanding the Proposition 68 grant funding eligibility and scoring process helped staff to determine how competitive the City's application would be for each of the three options identified in the Columbia Park Master Plan.

After discussing the three options, it was determined projects involving amenities that are available to the public for less than seven days a week and less than three hours per day are deemed **ineligible** for funding. The limited seasons for the pool (two months) and the spray parks (four months) prohibit these options from being viable. In addition, amenities which require a fee for access are also scored lower.

Furthermore, it was determined that all three options are considered to be a rehabilitation of an **existing** park. The construction of a new park would be more competitive and rank much higher on points. According to Townsend, very few projects, especially rehabilitation projects, received funding in the earlier rounds.

In addition, a project aimed at **expanding** the use of a park would score higher than a rehabilitation project. The proposed projects would primarily be rehabilitating existing amenities not creating new uses.

Given these challenges, staff will not be pursuing this source of funding for the Columbia Park Master Plan project. While this news is disappointing, staff believes there will be alternative sources of funding (both public and private) to support the selected project. For now, staff will continue to focus efforts on working with the Ad Hoc Committee to engage the community in a thorough evaluation of the various options. The elimination of the impending grant deadline will allow for more time to gain critical community feedback in order to provide a more thoughtful recommendation to Council.

Staff met with the Ad Hoc Committee on Thursday, August 20, 2020 to discuss this change in course and as a result, a new timeline is being developed for the process. More information will be made available soon on the City's webpage.