

December 8, 2022
Item 5

TITLE: REVIEW THE CONCEPT PLANS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED PLAYGROUND RENOVATIONS FOR THE SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND AT VAL VISTA COMMUNITY PARK AND PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION ON THE FINAL DESIGN

SUMMARY

The City of Pleasanton is renovating the existing southern playground at Val Vista Community Park. The renovation will include the replacement of the play equipment at the play area for both the two to five-year-old and five to twelve-year-old children. A public outreach meeting was conducted at the playground site on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Public comments were collected by phone and email, and a questionnaire was posted to social media outlets by the City's Public Information Officer during the latter half of November. The public comments received during the outreach process are included in this report. Staff is requesting a recommendation on the final design direction for the playground renovation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Review the concept plans
2. Receive the staff presentation and public comments
3. Provide a recommendation on the final design of the playground.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There is no direct financial impact resulting from a Parks and Recreation Commission action. Staff will include the agreements for design and construction services with the final budget figures in the report to be presented to City Council. Final budget figures will be based on funding availability and the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation.

BACKGROUND

City staff inspects the playground equipment in all City parks to determine which play equipment needs maintenance or replacement. These inspections are performed by the Parks Division's certified playground safety inspectors (CPSI). As part of the review, the CPSI considers the physical condition and age of the equipment, safety and accessibility concerns, and the availability of replacement parts. Based on the evaluation for the current two-year work plan, it was determined that the playgrounds at Val Vista Community Park were in the greatest need of replacement. Currently, there are two separate play areas at Val Vista. One is located on the northern half of the park adjacent to the soccer fields and the other is located on the southern portion of the park near the community garden. However, it was determined that only one of the playgrounds at Val Vista could be replaced based on the available playground renovation budget of approximately \$300,000. Staff determined to replace the southern playground first due to the condition of the playground.

The Landscape Architecture, Parks, and Recreation divisions worked together on the advertisement for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the playground renovation. The RFQ was advertised on August 13, 2022. The City received four qualification packages on August 31 from the following vendors:

- Miracle Playsystems
- Park Planet
- Ross Recreation
- Specified Play Equipment Company.

The City's Selection Committee (comprised of representatives from the Operations Services Department, the Engineering Department, and the Library and Recreation Department) determined to work with Miracle Playsystems on the Val Vista playground based on the quality of design, which was unique from other City parks, and the capabilities of the company as reflected in the qualification package. See Attachment 1 for the concept design options.

The City's public outreach for the playgrounds included sending out notification cards to all tenants and property owners within 1,000 feet of Val Vista Park, posting signs at the park regarding the proposed playground renovation and public meeting, holding a public meeting on-site on Saturday, November 12, 2022, and advertising a questionnaire on social media for two weeks during November. The website link created for the project (http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cs/parks/community_parks.asp) included the following questions:

1. Which playground option do you prefer? *Two options were provided.*
2. Which color scheme do you prefer? *Colorful and neutral options were provided.*
3. Do you think any of the below play elements should replace elements currently shown in the playground design? *Twelve options were shown.*
4. Would you like the City to add exercise equipment and/or benches around the playground if there is sufficient budget to do so?
5. Are there any play elements or design features that should be included that you aren't seeing in the design or options?
6. What is your age?

See Attachment 2 for the Public Outreach Meeting Summary and Attachment 3 for the questionnaire and responses.

Approximately a dozen people attended the on-site outreach meeting, three residents provided input regarding Val Vista Park via email, and 120 people filled out the online questionnaire.

DISCUSSION

Staff presented two playground options, shown in Attachment 1, along with alternatives for the individual play equipment, and two different color options. The total cost of each playground option, as proposed in the initial concepts and presented at the public meeting, was approximately \$300,000. The input received from the public during the on-site meeting is summarized in Attachment 2.

The primary comments that the city received regarding the playground are summarized as follows:

1. Option 1, Butterflies, is the preferred option
2. The colorful color scheme is preferred
3. Swings should be incorporated into the design
4. Benches should be installed
5. Try to make the playground a little more interconnected
6. Monkey bars and other climbing elements should be included
7. There should be accessible play elements included
8. Include a seesaw
9. Include a spring rider
10. Provide shade.

City staff recommends specifying the preferred design and color option, adding requested elements as feasible, and incorporating the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation into the final design to present to City Council.

City Council will be presented with the final budget based on funding availability and the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation.

Submitted by:



Matt Gruber
Landscape Architect

Attachments:

1. Initial Conceptual Design Options
2. Public Outreach Meeting Summary
3. Public Outreach Questionnaire and Responses