



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council

From: Brad Reid, Parks and Recreation

Date: May 14, 2019

Reference: Presentation and discussion related to Old Town Pavilion Wind Screens

2030: Sense of Community Strategy: Goal 2, Successful Community Events and Festivals
Special Place to Live Strategy: Goal 3, Revitalizing Neighborhoods
Community Wellness and Enrichment Strategy: Goal 1, Community Gathering Places
Community Wellness and Enrichment Strategy: Goal 3, Expand Cultural Arts Amenities and Opportunities
Business Prosperity Strategy: Goal 3, Old Coppell as a Small Town Village

Introduction:

In accordance with the five year planning process, staff has been researching solutions for high wind protection at the Old Town Pavilion. The space is used weekly for the Coppell Farmers Market, but is also utilized for other special events and community rentals. The City has received feedback since the pavilion was built from event vendors, farmers market volunteers and rental customers that the high winds are a barrier to utilizing the space. A permanent solution for protection from high winds will provide a more desirable experience for rentals and community partnered events, has potential to save staff time in addition to providing a sheltered space for current farmers market and event vendors.

Background:

The Old Town Pavilion was built in 2013 for the purpose of having a space to facilitate activities and events at the Square that entice residents and nonresidents alike to visit Old Town. In addition to the pavilion itself, an alternate bid was included at that time for Roll-up Wind Screens that would serve as wind protection for the farmers market. The original cost of these was \$18,500. This option is currently still in use today. Use of the wind screens are only provided for city-sponsored events since each screen must be manually rolled up and down by Parks staff. They are only designed to tolerate up to 30 mph winds and require annual maintenance to replace hardware and weathered shade cloth as needed.

Options:

Staff has explored a number of options for the space. Since the pavilion is strategically located at the heart of Old Town, aesthetics must be considered as equally important to functionality. The custom design with high beams require expert consultation to ensure the product meets high standards for the economic development area. Staff pursued the following steps prior to landing on a recommendation on how to proceed.

- Reached out to local door and shade cloth vendors directly for consultation and quotes. 4 companies were unresponsive or did not source solutions that met the criteria for design standards.
- The project was put out as a Request for Proposals (RFP) that outlined the need and high standard for aesthetics. Purchasing received zero responses with proposed solutions.
- Worked with vendor through Facilities Department that supplies Fire Department doors to receive quote and recommendation. This recommendation satisfied functionality, but staff expressed concerns about aesthetics since the solution was 19 metal roll-up doors.
- Met with the architect responsible for much of the building design in the Old Town area, William Peck. Mr. Peck provided three design concepts for consideration.

Staff Recommendation:

The Parks and Recreation Department currently has a preferred option based on the outlined criteria. Glass motorized folding doors between several of the pavilion openings seems to be the best overall solution to accommodate all users of the facility. This solution provides protection from the wind and sun under the pavilion while offering an aesthetic quality that is demanded in this iconic historic zone. A final recommendation will be formalized and presented upon discussion and direction from the City Council.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact will be determined once the final solution is selected.

Conclusion:

Finding a long-term solution for windscreens at the market is supported by the resident-led farmers market committee. It would also be a relief to Parks staff to have a mechanical system with fewer maintenance issues to troubleshoot. Staff also anticipates that upgrading the windscreens would make it a much more desirable rental for community use and partnered events. The challenge for finding a solution is in meeting the high design standards for the Old Town development district.