



MEMORANDUM

To: Coppel Recreation Development Corporation

From: Adam Richter, Assistant Director of Community Experiences
Jessica Carpenter, Director of Community Experiences

Date: August 16, 2025

Reference: Consider approval of funding an increased amount of \$223,390.64 for Request for Proposal #215 MacArthur Park Inclusive Playground.

2040: **Foster an Inclusive Community Fabric**

Introduction:

This item is presented for consideration of funding a \$223,390.64 increase in the contract amount for Request for Proposal (RFP) #215 MacArthur Park Inclusive Playground, awarded to The PlayWell Group, Inc. While the previous contract was approved and funded through the Coppel Recreation Development Corporation (CRDC) fund in the amount of \$343,232.15, additional community requested features and amenities have increased the total project cost to \$566,622.79. Staff budgeted \$500,000.00 for this item in the 24-25 CRDC Work Program. The additional \$66,622.79 is available in the CRDC unassigned fund balance.

Background:

On February 27, 2025, the City received seven (7) responses for RFP #215 MacArthur Park Inclusive Playground RFP. Staff evaluated and rated the vendors and their responses based on the following criteria:

- Experience with Municipal Inclusive Playgrounds (40%)
- Pricing (20%)
- Examples of Inclusive Playground Design (15%)
- References (15%)
- Project Plan and Schedule (10%)

A comprehensive evaluation was conducted by staff and The PlayWell Group, Inc. was determined to have submitted the highest-rated proposal among the seven (7) responses received. Accordingly, it was recommended that the City proceed with The PlayWell Group, Inc. as the selected vendor, as they offer the total best solution for this scope of work.

Following City Council's approval on April 8 and CRDC's approval on April 21 for RFP #215 MacArthur Park Inclusive Playground, awarded to The PlayWell Group, Inc., staff proceeded with the community engagement process to collect feedback on the playground design in coordination with the consultant from The PlayWell Group, Inc.

On April 30, a community input meeting was held at Mockingbird Elementary where staff and the consultant from The PlayWell Group led attendees through conversations and voting stations of preferred playground features. Additionally, an online survey captured community feedback from April 30 - May 23.

Through this process, the community identified the following features as priorities that were not included in the original design:

- Ramps on the playground structure to support wheelchair mobility.
- 4-bay swing system to include two (2) inclusive seats, two (2) toddler playshare seats, and four (4) traditional seats.
- Poured-in-place surfacing beneath the swing system to improve accessibility.
- Access Glider to accommodate mobility devices and encourage social play.
- Spin Max Pod for children with sensory sensitivities.
- Expanded seating area to include two (2) ADA picnic tables, two (2) standard picnic tables, and two (2) standard benches.
- 6 post hip shade structure to provide sufficient shade coverage over the playground, swing system, and seating areas.

Staff then worked with The PlayWell Group, Inc. to incorporate these features and modifications into the design. The updated design was reviewed by members of the Parks and Recreation Board and Community Experiences staff. Through this second phase of the design process involving the community, staff still believe that The Playwell Group, Inc. provide the total best solution for the City.

Community input also revealed the need for fencing around the playground to create a safe, enclosed space where children can play freely without the risk of running off. This scope of the project will be completed by a separate vendor using funds from the CRDC fund balance.

If Council chooses to proceed with awarding the increased amount to The Playwell Group, Inc., construction will begin in October 2025, with an anticipated completion of January 2026.

Benefit to the Community:

This project will result in the community having its first all-abilities inclusive playground for children ages 5-12. The additional features and amenities included in the footprint expansion were requested by the community to support inclusive, accessible, and engaging play experiences for all park users.

Legal Review:

The Procurement Division has reviewed the RFP.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this agenda item is an additional \$223,390.64 for The Playwell Group, Inc. to make the recommended changes of enhanced playground features and amenities requested by the community. Staff budgeted \$500,000.00 for this item in the 24-25 CRDC Work Program. The additional \$66,622.79 is available in the CRDC unassigned fund balance. The CRDC unassigned fund balance will cover the cost for fencing around the play structure, which will be completed by a separate vendor.

Recommendation:

The Community Experiences Department recommends approval of this item.