



MEMORANDUM

To: Coppel Recreation Development Corporation

From: Brad Reid, Director of Parks and Recreation

Date: April 15, 2019

Reference: Consider award of Bid #Q-0219-01 from William H. Company, in the total bid amount of \$214,000.00, for the construction of the Nature Explore Classroom at the Biodiversity Education Center, of which \$163,550.00 will come from CRDC funds and the remainder from CIP funds; and authorizing the City Manager to execute any necessary documents.

2030: Sense of Community, Special Place to live

Introduction:

Since its opening in 2014, the Biodiversity Education Center (BEC) has been a successful learning ground for visitors to engage with Coppel's natural environment. The need for a passive space that continues to facilitate this engagement quickly became apparent and staff has been planning for a Nature Explore Classroom to complement the center since 2015. This improvement would serve as an added activity area for the BEC's partnered Coppel ISD field trips. It would also provide members of the public a way to engage in the learning objectives promoted by the BEC when the center is not staffed.

Nature Explore is a reputable brand that seeks to transform children's lives through research-based outdoor classroom design services and natural products. The design for the Biodiversity Education Center includes stations for music and movement, climbing and crawling, building, water manipulation, a digging area and a stage. The concept is designed with input from classroom teachers to maximize the outdoors as a classroom. In addition to serving young learners at the BEC, staff anticipates this area will be a popular play space for groups with children that are in the park for sports. It is planned to be a passive destination situated between the building and the trailhead as an approachable gateway to the park.

The Biodiversity Education Center hosted over 10,000 visitors last year and relies heavily on volunteers to operate at that capacity. BEC staff and patrons will benefit directly from this addition by incorporating the space into learning stations during facilitated programs. It will provide a means for a high standard of service delivery as there will be an option for families that visit the center after hours or show up to a full program.

Analysis:

Ensuring that a Nature Explore area is suitable for the space and would be utilized by the public and educational stakeholders, staff has pursued the following:

- Nature Explore representatives visited the center to talk about possibilities. This meeting included community partners and the Parks Project Manager in addition to BEC staff (2015)
- Visited Nature Explore Classroom in Plano that is onsite at the Plano Environmental Education Center (2016)
- Added project to 5-year planning process and began exploring grant and alternative funding options (15-16).
- Met with BEC stakeholders to factor input into the design preferences.
- Contracted design of construction plans (2016)
- Presented a sneak peak of plans to Park Board and City Council as part of Community Programs divisional update (April 2018)
- Put plans out to bid but did not receive any responses (Dec. 2018)
- Put plans out to bid for a second time and received seven bids (Feb. 2019)
- City Council awarded the low bid to William H. Company (March 26, 2019)

The lowest bid from William H. Company is \$222,000 with a deduct of \$8,000 for using concrete instead of TREX for the stage component of the project. This brings the total construction cost to \$214,000. Funding is expected to come from two sources for this bid: \$50,450 will come from dedicated C.I.P funding, leaving \$163,550 from CRDC for this construction. There is an additional \$36,000 worth of owner supplied equipment and materials that are necessary but outside the scope of this award, resulting in a total CRDC investment for this project of \$199,550.

Legal Review:

Agenda item did not require legal review

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this item is \$163,550.00.

Recommendation:

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of funding this item.