

# HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**MEETING DATE:** September 17, 2020

**FROM:** Laura Fischer, General Manager

**SUBJECT:** Approve the Submittal of Grant Application(s) to the Statewide Park Program Round 4 Funding.

## **ISSUE:**

Shall the Board of Directors approve the submittal of a grant application(s) to the Statewide Park Program Round 4 Funding?

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the submittal of grant applications to the Statewide Park Program Round 4 Funding.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The HPUD Board of Directors hired The Holt Group as consultants to develop and submit the grant application. The funding for the remaining consultant contract was included in the FY 20-21 budget. Should the HPUD Board decide to submit more than one grant application there may be a slight increase in the consultant fees.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In February 2019, the HPUD Board authorized the submittal of an RFP to select a consultant to develop the grant application(s). The HPUD also selected a subcommittee to work with staff and the consultant to review the Parks projects and coordinate with the public and staff. HPUD needs to have a completed and competitive application ready to submit for this round of funding by the deadline of December 14, 2020.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Our next step for this round of funding is as follows:

- Begin community engagement to establish a plan for parks development and community revitalization. We can use the community engagement activities we performed for the last round, but we need to add to that effort.
  - We will contact the school and see if they will assist the students complete a survey with survey monkey.
  - Notices and surveys in the October 1<sup>st</sup> utility bill.
  - Posters near the bill pay drop box at HPUD where people can select the type of recreation facility they want. (Similar to last year at the ice cream social.)
  - Possibly place posters on the sidewalk in front of the post office is we can get permission or other heavy traffic areas.
  - Holt a drive through community event and have surveys and posters available.
- Contact the committee we established last year to work on project development and application submittal. The Committee includes two HPUD Board Members,

staff, public safety representatives, school representatives, public health representatives, CORPS, community members and consultant. Committee has been established and will meet in September to review the data results. They will make a recommendation on the applications and possible improvements through the HPUD Sub-Committee members at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Grant Summary**

- Funding can be used to create a new park, expand an existing park or renovate an existing park.
- Recreation features are allowed, property acquisition is also allowed use.
- Applying for multiple parks requires separate grant applications.
- There is \$395.3M available in this round and the maximum amount per grant application is \$8.5M.
- This project must comply with CEQA.
- This project must have an engineers' cost estimate, which means it must be developed ASAP.
- The application must include a conceptual design and HPUD Board approval via Resolution. The Resolution must be approved at your November 19, 2020 meeting.
- The application does provide additional points for critically underserved communities.
- Number of People living in poverty with proximity of the project site adds additional points.
- Holding community meetings to gather input is critical to the application success.
- The community outreach must also include reaching out to and involving the California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps. This process is outlined and attached.
- Partnerships with other agencies or non-profits are encouraged and receive extra points.
- The project should have an efficient use of water and or other natural resources component.
- The project should be sustainable and should include SITES certified landscaping or LEED certified building construction.
- Public use and hours of operation are also a criterion to earn points.
- The project should assist HPUD in overcoming community challenges like the lack of recreational facilities, social, cultural, environmental, educational, and economic.
- Should HPUD receive the grant, the project must be completed within the timeline and with the budget.

## **Potential Projects**

- 1) 19 Acre Regional Park – This project was submitted last year for the full \$8.5M but was not funded. It included a swimming pool, water features, basketball courts, soccer fields, snack bar, restrooms, play equipment, and baseball.
- 2) Jiggs Johnson Park – This project was submitted last year but was not funded. Several components of this project have been completed through HPUD

- funding and IID Local Entity funds. The most recent improvements to Jiggs Johnson Park include solar lights, improvements to the walkway, new shade, and picnic tables. The remaining improvements that could be included in this grant application are restrooms, storage, and snack bar.
- 3) Correll Basin – The Correll Basin Improvement project includes fixing the flow of the stormwater, pump station, electrical, walking path, and constructing a small park just east of the sidewalk, fencing, lights, and other park features. This project was submitted to the Urban Flood Protection Grant Program in June 2020. We should expect a response regarding our application by December 2020. This project is eligible to be submitted to the Statewide Park Program for funding and should the Urban Flood Protection grant not be awarded, this project could be submitted to the Statewide Park Program grant.
  - 4) New Park Property on Southside of Highway 86 – If the BOD wants to pursue this project, we will need to contact the property owner to see if they are willing to sell to HPUD for this purpose. If yes, we could apply for funds to acquire the property and make improvements. This may be a project that we start working on with the HPUD sub-committee and if there is movement on securing a letter of intent to sell the property, we could submit the application.
  - 5) Other Park Projects?

**CONCLUSION:**

Currently, we need to decide which projects we want our consultant to work on and prioritize them accordingly.

We need to select the application(s) and project(s) to be submitted to meet the timeline and submittal deadline. This is a great opportunity for the community of Heber and our neighbors to develop parks in Heber.

Staff recommends approving the submittal of grant application(s) to the Statewide Park Program Grant Round 4 Funding.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1) Do not approve the submittal of grant application(s) to the Statewide Park Program Grant. This will result in the HPUD not submitting a grant application for this round of funding.
- 2) Provide alternative direction to staff.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Fischer, General Manager