

CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: October 15, 2012
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Pierce Street Parcel Project

REPORT BY: Penelope Leach, Assistant City Manager/Community Services Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide direction for design features for the Pierce Street Parcel Project in an effort to frame the development as architects prepare to present to Council a draft Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

Following the purchase of the Pierce Street parcel in June of 2011, the City commenced a comprehensive process to select a lead architectural firm to develop plans for the parcel. In May 2012, Council approved a contract with Burks Toma to complete Phase 1 of the Pierce Street Park Project. Phase 1 includes the geotechnical analysis, the implementation of public process, development of a site Master Plan, and a preliminary cost range for the three components: (1) a maintenance center; (2) bike/pedestrian path; and (3) a park. In May 2012, Council also approved subcontracts with The Planning Center/DC&E, landscape architects, as well as A3Goe, Inc., for the geotechnical analysis.

Discussion

Burks Toma along with The Planning Center/DC&E have developed options based on comments collected from meeting with the community, a working group, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Traffic and Safety Commission. There are different perspectives and pros and cons on items such as types of uses (passive vs active), the number of parking spaces and location, and the maintenance building location. The presentation this evening will show the options and design alternatives as well as the pros, cons, and construction challenges associated with each option. The presentation is attached. A range of cost estimates will also be presented.

Council priorities for the design features will be important in order to secure more focused and accurate cost estimates, and to be able to choose among possibilities for use of funds as the budget becomes more refined.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The project meets a number of sustainability goals, including increasing park and open space, additional plantings of trees and other Bay Friendly landscaping, stormwater and pollution prevention improvements, promoting alternative transportation via bicycle and pedestrian trails, and greater energy and water efficiency of City Facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT

The presentation this evening is part of the approved contract with Burks Toma. A range of cost estimates will be presented for the project. More specific cost estimates will be presented as design features are further developed.