

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: July 5, 2005

Reviewed by_____

Subject: Contract with The Active Network for the installation, training and support for recreation class registration and facility rental software.

Report By: Melinda Chinn, Recreation & Community Services Director

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Administrator to execute a contract with The Active Network for an amount not to exceed \$18,200 for the installation, training and support for recreation class registration and facility rental software.

BACKGROUND

In 1998 the Recreation and Community Services Department purchased RecWare Pro, which is a computer software system for class and recreation activities registration and reservation of city facilities. RecWare is a Microsoft FoxPro system. Participants may register by phone, by mail, in-person, by fax or over the Internet. At the time of purchase, RecWare was one of the two most commonly used software programs by city recreation departments in the state. The other program called the CLASS System (Computerized Leisure Activities Software System) was a better system but was too expensive for the City to purchase at the time.

A few years ago, RecWare became The Active Network and just this past year The Active Network merged with CLASS. Now both products are available from one single-source vendor.

DISSCUSSION

Earlier this year, The Active Network informed us that they would be phasing out support for RecWare Pro partly because it is a Microsoft FoxPro system. Microsoft FoxPro is an obsolete system and is less stable and secure than SQL 2000. Our options are to upgrade to another RecWare produce or to upgrade to the CLASS System. Both of these use the SQL 2000 platform. There is no difference in the price of the products, however the CLASS System is superior to RecWare and has a larger support staff. The staff preference would be to upgrade to the CLASS System.

The Active Network has offered two options for the upgrade to the CLASS System. One option is to purchase the software outright and pay yearly maintenance fees; the other is to

pay a one-time fee for installation and training and then a monthly licensing fee for the software and support. The staff recommendation is to pay for the training and installation with the monthly licensing fee. Since The Active Network is the only vendor to sell this product, staff did not solicit bids. The CLASS System will be able to use our existing database.

This past fiscal year, the Recreation and Community Services Department processed nearly \$600,000 in program and facility rental fees, necessitating the availability of reliable and efficient computer software.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to upgrade to the CLASS System is \$18,200 and includes installation, training and support. In addition, there will be a monthly fee of \$600 for the software licenses. The Active Network calls this software an Ever Green product, meaning that the City will always be entitled to system and product upgrades at no additional cost. Purchase of the software outright would have cost \$44,000 not including yearly support fees and upgrade costs, which staff determined to be a more costly approach. The funding for this contract will come from the Classes and Events budget, which has sufficient funds to cover the expense.