

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: October 20, 2008
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: RobertiZ'berg grant funds for Ocean View Sports Field improvements

REPORT BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the use of the RobertiZ-berg grant funds for Ocean View sports field improvements which include:

- (1) batting cages;
- (2) bullpen;
- (3) electronic scoreboard;
- (4) snack shack;
- (5) fencing;

BACKGROUND

The 2006/07-2010/11 Capital Improvements Plan adopted by Council earmarked the 2000 and 2002 Roberti-Z'Berg Block Grants for the renovation of the Veteran's Memorial Building should the City have the opportunity to renovate and manage the building. On June 16, 2008, the City Council voted to postpone the Veteran's Building project; therefore, the grant funds need to be reassigned.

The 2000 Roberti-Z'Berg grant mandates a completed project by March 31, 2009, and has a \$22,274 matching fund requirement. The total 2000 grant including the matching amount is \$74,247. The 2002 Roberti-Z'berg grant mandates a completed project by March 31, 2011, but does not have a matching fund requirement. The total 2002 grant is \$45,357. The two grants may be combined for one project or split to cover smaller projects; however, if the grants are combined, the project must be completed by March 31, 2009, in order to use the 2000 Roberti-Z'berg grant funds. Combined, the two grants total \$119,604. Guidelines for eligible projects and matching funds are outlined in Attachment A.

During recent discussions by the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding funds from the Lighting and Landscape District (LLD), the Commission reviewed projects identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Commission was given a summary worksheet of those projects at the May 2008 meeting. Given the timeline for the 2000 Roberti-Z'Berg grant and the relatively small amount of the grants, none of the projects from the worksheet appear to be a good match. The worksheet from the May 2008 meeting is in attachment B.

At the July 2008 Commission meeting a subcommittee was established to discuss in more detail potential projects for the Roberti-Z'berg grant funds. The subcommittee met in early August and decided that there were two projects worth pursuing: (1) a Teen Media Center/Computer Lab; and (2) additional amenities for the Ocean View Park sports field. At the September 2008 Commission meeting, the Commission chose to recommend to Council that the grant funds be used for the Ocean View Sport Field additions. Although the Commission chose the sports field addition, they would also like to find a way to fund the Teen Center expansion project. The Commission asked staff to pursue ways to fund the Teen Center project.

DISCUSSION

The additional amenities at Ocean View Park sports field include an electronic scoreboard, a bullpen, batting cages, fencing, and a snack shack. The addition of a bullpen and batting cages would allow more flexibility in scheduling baseball and softball events as the field would be more attractive to the older age groups who currently prefer to use Memorial Field. Moreover, because Memorial does not have lights, there is little time to use the field from after school until sunset. Trying to fit in a high school softball program and the older little league teams has been problematic over the years.

The addition of the scoreboard and snack shack would benefit all sports. The snack shack could be rented to various user groups and could be an attractive draw for Teen events at the Teen Center. The suggested fencing includes adding foul ball fencing to the backstop as well as adding fencing in front of the portable down the first base line.

Estimated costs:

Design	\$ 7,000
Bullpens	\$15,000
Batting Cages	\$20,000
Fencing	\$10,000
Electronic Scoreboard	\$15,000
Snack Shack	\$20,000
<u>Contingency/Project management</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>
TOTAL	\$99,000

The total grant is for \$119,000 leaving a balance of \$20,000. If funds are available after the work is complete at Ocean View, staff would like to use the remaining funds for a permanent stage at Memorial Park located near the walkway by the tennis courts where the stage is typically set up for Music in the Park. Staff will come back to Council with a formal request at a later time should funds be available.

Matching Funds

A \$22,274 matching grant is required for the 2000 RobertiZ'berg grant. The School District Superintendent has expressed a willingness to go the School Board to recommend the matching funds for the Ocean View project.

FISCAL IMPACT

The entire project for Ocean View would be paid for from grant funds. The additional maintenance cost of taking care of the additions would be minimal and could be absorbed into the current budget.

Attachments

- A. Roberti-Z' Berg Grant Fund Summary Information
- B. LLD Summary Worksheet from May 2008 Meeting
- C. Diagram of Ocean View Park proposed additions