

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

Agenda Date: July 6, 2009
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Proposition 40 Funds

REPORT BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

PARKS & RECREATION RECOMMENDATION

That Council redirect the remaining Prop 40 funds to:

- (1) The installation of a rubberized surface that will cover a portion of the play area at Ocean View Park; and
- (2) The installation of a permanent stage at Memorial Park.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Commission recommendation.

BACKGROUND

Currently, there is a remaining balance of approximately \$51,000 of unallocated Proposition 40 funds. Proposition 40 is a non-competitive per capita grant which allotted a total of \$220,000 to the City of Albany. The City has used portions of Prop 40 money for park renovations, the Community Center floor resurfacing, and the Community Center Tower repair. Please see the attached spreadsheet for details. The remaining balance of \$51,000 was earmarked for a new roof and HVAC system at the Senior Center. Because of the recent purchase of the property next to the Senior Center, the roof and HVAC system will be part of the Senior Center expansion project, which will not be completed by March 2011. March 2011 is the deadline for using of the Prop 40 funds; therefore, the funds need to be redirected.

DISCUSSION

Permanent Stage at Memorial Park:

The Recreation and Community Services Department hosts a variety of communitywide special events at Memorial Park each year; the July 4th celebration, the concerts in the park series, and the Arts and Music Festival. These events are well attended and help create a sense of community for Albany residents, friends, and family. The portable stage that is used for special events at Memorial Park is in poor condition and can no longer be repaired. It has already lasted longer than expected. Staff is recommending that rather than spending money to replace the stage, the City invest in a permanent concrete stage.

The cost of a new portable stage is \$5,000-\$7,000 and would need to be replaced in five to eight years given the type of use it endures. The cost of a permanent stage is approximately \$18,000 and would last for more than 20 years. Moreover, the permanent stage could be used for additional seating in the park when not being used for special events and could also become a rentable space; therefore, recovering some of the cost for construction. Another advantage to having a permanent stage is that staff time would be greatly diminished as it takes several people to move the stage from storage, set it up, take it down, and put away.

In addition to the cost of purchasing a new stage, the City has very limited storage space and currently the portable stage takes up the majority of space available at Memorial Park. The storage area at Memorial Park is affectionately called “the Barn.” The Barn is used for all of City’s special events supplies: tents, storage bins, signs, equipment for the City’ dog agility classes, etc. If there were no stage to store, there are several things staff could move from the storage areas at the Community Center, where storage space is also limited, to the Barn.

Currently staff runs cables from either the Veteran’s Building or the Friendship Club to take care of the electrical needs for the special events on the stage. Having electricity closer to the stage would decrease set up and take down time as well as provide a safer set up by not having to run approximately 200 feet of cable across the park. Because there is not enough money at this time to completely take care of the electrical needs, staff is recommending that funds be used to prepare the site for a future electrical upgrades as some of the work needs to be done prior to the installation of the stage.

The placement of the stage would take up little green space, approximately 700 square feet. Pending Council’s approval, staff would work with a landscape architect on a specific design that would come back to the Commission and the Council for final approval. Please see the attached pictures for the proposed location of the stage.

Rubberized Surface at Oceanview Park Play Area

At the May 2009 Commission meeting, the Commission discussed several ADA issues in Albany’s parks. One main issue was the use of fibar in the play area at Oceanview Park. Although fibar is considered ADA compliant, keeping it groomed properly underneath the swings has been problematic. According to a consultant who recently toured the park in order to evaluate the park for ADA compliance, the area under to swings needed to be raked on a more regular basis to keep it level; however, the rest of the play area was considered level. Given that the area under the swings is difficult to keep raked and level, staff asked Tot Turf to submit a plan for covering the area under the swings to the back gate with a rubberized surface. Please see the attached sketch.

Another observation from residents attending the meeting in May and the ADA consultant was that the current ramp into the play area on the east side of the park could be improved to make it easier for those park users in a wheelchairs to transfer from the rubber ramp surface to the fibar surface. However, by having the rubberized surface include the area under the swing and cover the area to the back gate, park users in wheelchairs wanting to use the swings would not have to transfer to the fibar surface at all.

SUSTAINABILTY IMPACT

Tot Turf uses recycled California tires in their product and the product does not have to be replaced due to wear and tear. Instead, Tot Turf resurfaces playgrounds so there is no need to dispose of the surface.

FISCAL IMPACT

Estimated Cost of the Stage

Construction, site prep, and Labor	\$18,000
Design and inspection	\$ 3,500
Preparation for Electrical Upgrade	\$ 4,675
Subtotal	\$26,175
<u>10% contingency</u>	<u>\$ 2,618</u>
TOTAL	\$28,792

Estimated Cost of the Rubberized surface at Oceanview Park

Design and Inspection	\$3,500
Site Prep	\$6,308
<u>Surface Installation</u>	<u>\$8,833</u>
Subtotal	\$18,641
<u>10% Contingency</u>	<u>\$ 1,864</u>
TOTAL	\$20,505

GRAND TOTAL PROP 40 **\$49,297**

There is a remaining balance of approximately \$51,000 of unallocated Proposition 40 funds.

Attachments

1. Memorial Park Pictures
2. Proposed stage location
3. Spreadsheet of Prop 40 Projects