

MEMORANDUM NO. M16-016

TO: Building & Grounds Committee
FROM: Dean R. Bostrom, Executive Director
Gary Buczkowski, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Supply of Playground Equipment bid
DATE: January 27, 2016

Background:

As part of the Park District's 2016 Capital Improvement Plan, \$255,000 has been earmarked for the redevelopment of playgrounds at Sheffield and Canterbury Park Place Parks. In addition \$190,000 has been set aside for the redevelopment of the playground at Victoria North which is not addressed in this memo. As part of the process, staff normally bids out supply of equipment to be purchased directly from vendors and that equipment is supplied to the installation contractors. The installation bid portion of the project will be released once the equipment vendors are known and will be presented at the March meetings.

Playground designs concepts for both of these projects were developed by staff and presented to the public and the Board in November and December of 2015. Vendors were encouraged to develop similar plans based on their proprietary amenities or products. Three designs were chosen as equal by staff and included in the bid package. Playground vendors were contacted and public notices were given in December for supply of this equipment. A total of seven vendors expressed interest in supplying this equipment. To be qualified, the vendor had to present a manufacturer's product of a certain quality and be able to provide a design comparable to the overall play value as required by staff. One of the vendors backed out of the process due to time limitations. The other six vendors were able to submit plans for each of the playground projects and with minor adjustment to their plans were able to be qualified by staff.

Implications:

At the time of the bid opening, staff received bids from six vendors all of which were pre-qualified for the projects. Attached is a summary of bids received. The bids received represent extremely aggressive discounts based on the competitive process and the timing of the bid. In most cases the sum totals submitted did not add up to the sum of the parts. These totals represent additional discounting. Since each of the vendors' designs had been pre-qualified, there was no need to re-qualify as part of the official bid. Zennon Companies bid proposal represented the low bid for both Sheffield and Canterbury playground projects individually. In addition, Zennon's low bid price of \$75,300 for both Sheffield and Canterbury Park Place playgrounds and the two swing alternates was also the lowest total combined bid price.

Zennon's bid did not include an alternate pricing for the three outdoor adult exercise pieces to be installed adjacent to the Sheffield Park playground. This is due to the fact that Zennon did not represent a company who could supply this type of equipment.

These items were identified as alternates and not required as part of any base bid. Based on the funds available for purchase of new equipment, staff is recommending that these pieces be purchased from Play Illinois for the low combined bid price of \$4,703. The addition of adult exercise equipment was a resident request that came from the public input meeting. Staff agreed to consider the idea if the purchase price would not exceed the budgeted amount. In this case the purchase of all items is still under staff's budgeted amount.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the B&G Committee recommend the full board award the bid for playground equipment at Sheffield and Canterbury Park Place to include the Canterbury alternates 1 and 2 to Zennon Company for the low bid price of \$75,300. Further, the committee recommends the Board award the supply of outdoor fitness equipment to Play Illinois for the combined low bid price of \$4,703.

Total awarded bid cost for the supply of this equipment is \$80,003. Staff's budget amount for this equipment in the two projects was \$86,500.