

MEMORANDUM NO. M17-016

TO: Building & Grounds Committee
FROM: Dean R. Bostrom, Executive Director
Gary Buczkowski, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Supply of Playground Equipment Bid Opening – Victoria & Colony
DATE: February 2, 2017

Background:

As part of Park District's 2017 Capital Improvement Plan, \$155,000 has been budgeted for the redevelopment of playgrounds at Victoria Park (South playground) and Colony (2-5 year old playground). 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. Staff's budgeted amount for equipment for the two projects is \$66,000. 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 design concepts for both of these projects were developed by staff and presented to the public and the Board in December of 2016. From the comments received, staff developed a performance playground design which was to be used in the bid process. A total of six 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 with an overall similar play value as the performance specified playground design. Five of the six vendor's designs were qualified as equal by staff.

Implications:

At the time of bid opening, staff received four bids and read them aloud. 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. Since each of the vendor's designs had been pre-qualified, there was no need to re-qualify as part of the official bid. In addition to the composite structures, staff included two alternates in the bid and made it clear to all that award of the composite structures was not tied to a combined price for all bid items. These two sand diggers were separated because not every manufacturer produces these elements and staff wanted to get as many vendors involved in the process. Zennon Company, (the low bidder) assumed both playgrounds would be shipped at the same time and provided a combined discounted cost in the final total. Zennon, who represents Play Craft Equipment Company, has supplied the district's playgrounds for the past two years. Their quality and service have met staff's expectations in every case.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the B&G Committee recommend the board award the bid for playground equipment at Victoria and Colony and alternates 1 and 2 to Zennon Company for the low bid price of \$58,377.