



Date: December 15, 2008

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Wanda S. Page, Deputy City Manager
From: Rhonda B. Parker, Director, Parks and Recreation
Subject: Acceptance of Donation for Old North Durham Park Playground

Executive Summary

The Central Park School for Children (CPSC) is offering to donate \$62,263.00 worth of playground equipment to expand the playground in Old North Durham Park. Funding for the equipment comes from a Durham Open Space and Trails grant and CPSC matching funds. Like the existing playground, installed in Old North Durham Park by CPSC in 2005, this new equipment will be open to the public. The proposed equipment meets all applicable safety standards and is accessible. It will be maintained by CPSC.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution accepting the donation of playground equipment and its installation in Old North Durham Park by the Central Park School for Children.

Background

The campus of CPSC, a public K-5 charter school, is immediately adjacent to Old North Durham Park. Because the school's campus is small, the school routinely uses the park site for its active recreation. CPSC has adopted the park and provides regular maintenance to the site. In 2005, CPSC donated equipment, safety surfacing, and installation to create a playground in Old North Durham Park. That installation also included a safety net to separate the playground from the athletic field that makes up the rest of the site.

CPSC wishes to expand the existing playground site with two new pieces of equipment at a cost of \$62,263.00; that cost includes the actual equipment and safety surfacing, shipping costs, design fees, and installation. The equipment (shown on Attachment B) is designed and fabricated by Berliner Seilfabrik and distributed in the United States by Goric Equipment. It conforms to all American product safety standards, and it will be installed by Mid-Atlantic Recreation (a North Carolina company). CPSC received a Durham Open Space and Trails grant for \$31,132.00 and raised the matching funds (also \$31,132.00) over two years with proceeds from the school's annual Strawberry Festival and the school Sunshine Fund. Staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has examined the site plan and the safety zones for the proposed new equipment (Attachment C).

Issues/Analysis

- Will there be any expense to the City if the Council accepts this donation? No, CPSC is funding the full cost, including installation; the school will maintain the equipment after it is in place. The equipment will become the property of the City after it is installed.
- Will the City incur any liability? The City is self-insured, and this playground will be governed by the same regulations as any City park. Equipment and surfacing as installed will meet all applicable safety standards, just as any installation contracted by the City would meet. However, groups of students supervised by school staff and using the playground during the school day are the liability of the school.
- Will the playground be open to the public? Yes, it is in a public park and open to the public. A sign acknowledging the DOST grant and the playground's public status will be posted as a condition of the grant receipt.
- Is the playground accessible? Yes, the engineered wood fiber safety surfacing is rated as accessible.
- Will the expansion of the playground interfere with other park site uses? No, the only other facility in the park is the athletic field, and the playground expansion will not infringe on this use.

Alternatives

The City Council could choose not to accept this proposed donation of playground equipment.

Financial Impact

There will be no financial impact to the City from the acceptance of this donation (Attachment D).

SDBE Summary

There will be no City contract involved in the purchase or installation of this equipment.

- Attachment:
- A. resolution accepting the donation
 - B. proposed equipment
 - C. area site plan
 - D. letter of donation from CPSC