



Date: November 19, 2013

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

Through: W. Bowman "Bo" Ferguson, Deputy City Manager

From: Rhonda B. Parker, Director, Parks and Recreation

Subject: Acceptance of Donation by Absolute Care Foundation for the Renovation of Carroll Street Park

Executive Summary

The Absolute Care Foundation (ACF), the charitable foundation of Absolute Dental Services has selected Carroll Street Park as their annual project for 2013. Over 50 employees and clients of Absolute Dental Services have donated over 500 volunteer hours of service to renovate the park located at 815 Carroll St. The total financial commitment of the foundation is \$14,680 including \$4576.73 in cash donations to Durham Parks and Recreation for equipment installed by volunteers. The balance of the donation is direct expenditures of the foundation that resulted in park amenities.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the City Council accept the donation by Absolute Care Foundation of \$4,577 and equipment valued at \$10,103.00 for the renovation of Carroll Street Park.

Background

Carroll Street Park is a .79 acre park located across the street from the childhood home of the Reverend St. Pauli Murray. The residents of Carroll Street have long requested the City to make improvements to the park, which had a picnic table, a bench and half a basketball court with a hoop for young children. Staff was contacted by ACF in May 2013 regarding the Foundation's interest in selecting a park project as their annual donation and volunteer effort and thought that pairing the interest of the ACF with the needs of Carroll Street Park was an ideal match. Together with assistance from Keep Durham Beautiful, DPR and ACF developed a renovation plan for the park that provided for the recreational needs of the residents of the neighborhood as well as the beautification of the park.

ACF volunteers constructed and installed five benches and two bench swings, installed a new basketball hoop, a tetherball, two grills, a second picnic table, two pieces of adult fitness equipment and new landscaping. They also re-poured sections of the concrete walkway, sealed the basketball court and refurbished the existing picnic table and bench. Their work culminated with a Park Build on November 16, 2013. On November 17, 2013 ACF hosted a park rededication ceremony followed by a pig picking and block party for the residents of Carroll Street and surrounding neighborhood.

Issues/Analysis

This donation has greatly enhanced the quality of the park for the residents of Carroll Street. The renovations would not have been possible without the work and donation of the Absolute Care Foundation. ACF has agreed to adopt the park and will continue to have seasonal workdays to maintain the landscaping and amenities.

Alternatives

The City Council could choose not to accept this donation and DPR will return the equipment to the donor.

Financial Impact

There is no known negative financial impact to the City of Durham in accepting this donation.