

APPROVED
06-01-2016
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
& PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

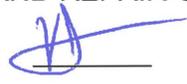
NO. 16-127

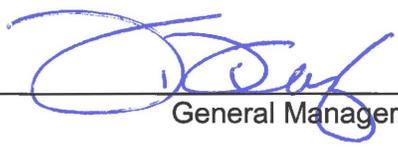
DATE: June 01, 2016

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RUNYON CANYON PARK - RESCISSION OF APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BASKETBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS AND ANCILLARY PARK AMENITIES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WORK RELATED TO RESTORATION AND REPAIR OF EXISTING RETAINING WALL

AP Diaz	_____	*V. Israel	<u></u>
R. Barajas	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	N. Williams	_____


General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind the Board's prior approval of for the installation of basketball court improvements with recognition signage, and ancillary park amenities such as a drinking fountain and fencing at the site of the existing concrete court, with the exception of work related to the restoration and repair of an existing retaining wall at Runyon Canyon Park. (Board Report No. Report No. 15-223).

SUMMARY

On November 4, 2015, the Board approved a project consisting of the repair and restoration of an existing retaining wall and installation of basketball improvements with ancillary park amenities at the site of an existing concrete court within Runyon Canyon Park (collectively, "the Project"). The Project was approved to be funded through a charitable contribution from Pink Dolphin Clothing, LLC (Pink Dolphin) to the Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation (FORC), at no cost to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) or the City of Los Angeles (City). The Project was to be implemented through a contract between FORC and B&W Holdings, Inc., (dba, Digital Interiors) and through a temporary, revocable Right of Entry Permit (No. 766) issued by RAP. The Board conditionally approved the Project contingent upon plans and specifications being approved by RAP's Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch (PCM), and all required permits being obtained by FORC's selected contractor. There are no executed agreements for this Project between RAP and FORC or Pink Dolphin.

In addition to the restoration of an existing retaining wall in need of repair and replacement, the Project also included leveling and resurfacing the existing concrete court with non-slip material and court lines; demolition and removal of existing, fallen chain-link fencing; replacement of

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fencing with the installation of new ten-foot high, coated fencing around the perimeter of the Court; installation of basketball equipment consisting of two (2) eight-inch (7 gauge) regulation height poles with overhang fixtures, tempered-glass backboards and heavy duty goals; installation of a new drinking fountain with related plumbing and connections; and the placement of a recognition logo on the court surface and installation of recognition signage.

On or about April 18, 2016, Citizens Preserving Runyon, an unincorporated association, and others, filed a lawsuit challenging the CEQA process performed by RAP for this project (Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS 161761). Additionally, there have been several community concerns expressed to the City related to the community engagement process for this project.

On or about May 17, 2016, FORC notified the City that after much review and input from park users, neighbors and stakeholders, FORC recommended that the basketball court Project be cancelled. RAP has also determined that it is in RAP's best interest to rescind and terminate the Board's prior action to approve the basketball court portion of the Project, including the installation of recognition signage and ancillary park amenities (fencing and drinking fountain). RAP acknowledges the necessity to obtain broader community input and/or environmental review should decisions be made regarding proposed future improvements or engaging other existing or proposed sponsorship funded projects at Runyon Canyon Park; however, The Department greatly appreciates and commends the donor's generous intentions to support park improvements at Runyon Canyon Park.

RAP's recommended rescission does not include the repairs to the existing retaining wall. The retaining wall repairs are independent from the proposed basketball court project and are needed in order to safely reopen adjacent hiking trails as well as a key fire service road. For these reasons staff recommends that the critical on-going retaining wall restoration be completed.

For the reasons set forth above, RAP recommends that the Board rescind its prior approval of Report No. 15-223 for the installation of basketball court improvements with recognition signage, and ancillary park amenities such as a drinking fountain and fencing at the site of the existing concrete court, with the exception of work related to the restoration and repair of the retaining wall. RAP is currently evaluating and reviewing cost estimates and plans for completing the remaining wall work and will soon bring those to the Board for approval, including information on the work completed to date and requests for funding allocations or mechanisms necessary to finish the remaining work.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no fiscal impact to the RAP General Fund associated with the Board's rescission of its

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prior action pending requests and evaluations for future allocations of funding needed to complete the retaining wall.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnership Division.