

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: December 3, 2019

TITLE: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Prepared by: Daniel Porras Public Works Director

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Approve the rehabilitation of Hot Springs Park into Reflection Park; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution of the City Council authorizing participation in and authorizing the City Manager to approve all agreements and necessary documents associated with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

BACKGROUND

Each year the City receives an entitlement allocation of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City's 2020-2021 CDBG allocation is estimated at \$247,000. The majority of these funds must be spent on capital projects, such as housing, public facility improvements, or eligible public works projects. Due to the federal budget process, the exact amount of the City's 2020-2021 allocation may not be known until as late as May.

All CDBG activities must meet a national objective, usually by benefitting low-income persons or eliminating blight. At least 70% of the CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low income persons. This restriction and the corresponding data collection requirements make qualifying of CDBG funding challenging for many cities. In addition to meeting a national objective, the activity itself must be designated, as eligible CDBG funds may be used for a variety of community development activities. Activities include the acquisition of real property, rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures, construction of public facilities and improvements, public services, and economic development and job creation/retention activities.

DISCUSSION

A Parks Master Plan (Plan) was approved by the City Council in 2013 (Exhibit 1). In the Plan, there were several recommendations presented to effectively meet the current and future needs of the community. To address these needs Staff is recommending that the City Council consider the rehabilitation of Hot Springs Park into Reflection Park. Hot Springs Park is located on the North-West corner of Palm Drive and 8th Street. Hot Springs Park currently features a water fountain and some landscaping. The Reflection Park Project will transform the existing park into a new more functional park that can be used for walking, relaxation, and reflection, by all residents and visitors. Typically, community parks accommodate large group activities and offer a wide variety of facilities. This site will allow for walking, relaxation, and reflection, and is easily accessible by motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. The City's residents enjoy a variety of recreational activities, programs and services. However, the consensus in the community and verified by the Master Plan is that existing parks are not capable of fulfilling all the needs of the community and thus new facilities should be planned. The plan also stated the greater need for walking and biking trails within parks, and cultural facilities and programs, in which all can be accomplished as part of this project. This project will benefit all by adding to the identity and character, a sense of belonging, and will help stimulate economic development.

The Reflection Park Project site is roughly 0.44 acres. The Reflection Park Project will transform the entire 0.44 acres and provide transitions into existing surrounding infrastructure. The Reflection Park Project will include the removal of the water fountain, and the installation of Date

Palm Trees, a walking pathway, benches in shade areas, new landscaping, and state of the art lighting. Below is one rendering, see additional renderings in Exhibit 2.



FISCAL IMPACT

The City will be using the FY20-21 CDBG grant funds up to \$247,000 for the project. The CDBG program is a reimbursable program so the City must provide the cash necessary for the design before being reimbursed. This project will be included in the FY20-21 Budget.

EXHIBIT(S)

- 1) Parks Master Plan
- 2) Reflection Park Project Renderings
- 3) Draft Resolution