



CITY COUNCIL

March 28, 2017

Special Meeting

1. Call to Order – **5:30 P.M.** - City Hall Council Chambers
2. Roll Call
3. New Business – Consideration to approve Tax Increment Finance Authority Funds for landscaping improvements at Festival Area Beach
4. Adjournment



BOARD: City Council

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2017

PREPARED: March 23, 2017

AGENDA SUBJECT: Tax Increment Finance Authority Funds for Landscaping Improvements at Festival Area Beach

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve funds for landscape project

Background City Staff has been working with landscape architects in the development of a landscaped hedge along the beach area at Festival Area Beach. The hedge will act as a barrier for a growing geese population that frequent the park each spring and summer to eat green grass. As geese are known to do, the geese leave behind goose droppings creating an unsanitary and unpleasant park environment.

There are various issues that Staff has considered in the development of the enclosed conceptual landscape plans:

1. Access – Human access to the beach and water will be through three decorative gates. To allow access for equipment and watercraft (kayaks, SUPs, etc.) and for triathlon events, two four-foot gates will be installed near the center of the landscaped hedge. Two other four foot gates will be installed for additional access points.
2. Type of Vegetative Hedge – The hedge will be comprised of “burning bush” that is resilient and can withstand the harsh winds and frigid temperatures at the site. This type of vegetation can also be easily maintained to a height of 24”-30” and will fill in between plantings to keep geese off the grassy park area. There will also be some other landscaped beds near the gates for decorative purposes and Staff is researching planting native grasses on the water side of hedge in future years. A two-foot high, non-obtrusive, temporary black fence will be installed on the water side of the hedge until the burning bush is fully established.
3. Visual Impact – The hedge will be maintained at a minimum height each year to lessen the visual impact to the waterfront. The hedge is also a more natural and suitable approach to the goose issue than installing an unsightly fence along the waterfront that occurred in previous years.

Sealed bids were solicited for the project with four bids received:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Louis A. Hoffman Nursery, Harbor Springs | \$12,964 |
| 2. Robinson Nursery and Landscaping, Boyne City | \$14,534 |
| 3. David Hoffman Landscaping and Nursery, Petoskey | \$15,240 |
| 4. Drost Landscaping, Petoskey | \$21,452.56 |

In the 2017 Budget, there was \$15,000 budgeted in the Tax Increment Finance Authority Fund under Operations-Construction for the project. Staff would like Council's approval to spend up to \$18,000 that would be used as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Landscaping | \$12,964 |
| Gates and installation | \$ 2,100 |
| Native Grass/Misc. plantings | <u>\$ 2,936*</u> |
| | \$18,000 |

*Staff requests additional landscape monies for possible purchase of additional burning bush as the hedge will be over 600' and may need more plants to create an impermeable barrier for geese. We would also like to pursue planting native grasses this year in the area between the hedge and the water where there is currently swaths of Kentucky blue grass. (Environmental advocates have recommended the use of native plant species). Staff will monitor the native grasses to determine which species will thrive in this unique waterfront/park interface area. The entirety of the \$2,936 will not be spent if not needed.

With a TIFA Fund Balance of over \$1.2 million, the City Manager and City Treasurer could recommend an additional \$3,000 be earmarked for the project. If the extra funds are approved, a budget amendment would be needed at the end of the year.

Staff would like to begin the project in early to mid-April. We are looking for approval at this meeting to give adequate time for Louis Hoffman Nursery to order and ship the necessary plants for the project.

See enclosed conceptual site plan.

Both the Parks and Recreation Board as well as the Tax Increment Authority Finance Board unanimously voted to recommend that City Council approve the landscaping project for \$18,000 for Festival Area Beach.

Action Motion to approve up to \$18,000 from the Tax Increment Finance Authority Fund for landscaping improvements to Festival Area Beach.

sb
Enclosure

