



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Council Meeting Date: May 19, 2009
Staff Report #: 09-067

Agenda Item: 11

INFORMATION ITEM: Update on the Burgess Gymnasium and Gymnastics Center Project

This is an information item and does not require City Council action.

BACKGROUND

In December 2007, City Council unanimously approved the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation to proceed with a programming study and design phase for the renovation of the Burgess Gymnasium and Gymnastics Center. The project was to be funded by the second Measure T bond sale.

In December 2007, the City Council authorized a contract with Field Paoli Architects of San Francisco to develop conceptual designs for the expansion of the Burgess Gymnasium and Gymnastics Center. The contract included a programming study that evaluated operations, physical conditions, and space needs for the current and future uses as well as conceptual design of the facilities. Input from a programming consultant, gym users, gymnastics participants, neighbors, and City staff and an evaluation of the existing building were used by Field Paoli to develop and prepare cost estimates for three schemes that would fit in the existing available space at the Civic Center. The conceptual plans, estimates, and report summaries are available on the City's website and can be accessed at: www.menlopark.org/gym. Three refined schemes were presented at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on April 16, 2008. The Commissioners in attendance discussed each scheme's strengths and weaknesses and suggested additional information that might be helpful in determining their preferred scheme.

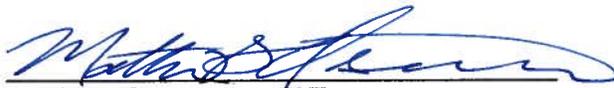
Following the April 16, 2008, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, local philanthropist John Arrillaga met with City representatives and presented an offer to further develop the gymnasium plan, construct a new gymnasium, and finance all but \$5 million of the design and construction costs. Mr. Arrillaga will select the construction contractor and take an active role in managing construction. The City will finance \$5 million of the construction costs plus normal City plan-check, building permit and inspection fees, utility connection fees, and will complete the environmental document for the project. Mr. Arrillaga has a successful history of similar philanthropic endeavors in the region and proven ability to complete projects of this complexity.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The City retained an environmental consultant, LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA), to perform the Initial Study required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to determine the potential impacts of the project. This Initial Study indicated that the project would result in "potentially significant impact" on traffic and parking in the area. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) focused on transportation impacts was prepared by LSA, and was released for public review on April 9, 2009, with a comment period ending on May 26, 2009. In addition, a Public Hearing to receive oral comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR was held at the May 4, 2009, Planning Commission meeting.

Following the close of the public review period, a "Response to Comments" document will be prepared that includes all written and oral comments received and responses to those comments. The Draft EIR and the Response to Comments will be combined to form the Final EIR, which is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Commission on June 29, 2009. The Final EIR will be available at least ten (10) days prior to the Planning Commission's public hearing on the project. At the same Public Hearing, the gymnasium project will be before the Planning Commission for architectural control review and recommendation to the Council.

A public hearing on the Final EIR and architectural control for the gymnasium is tentatively scheduled for the July 21, 2009, City Council meeting. The Council will be asked to certify the Final EIR at this hearing. Once the Final EIR is certified, the building permit application process can begin.



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Senior Civil Engineer



for

Lisa A. Ekers, P.E.
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PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS: None