

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Rob Sperl, Director of Park and Planning
Steve Hinchee, Superintendent of Planning

THROUGH: Michael Benard, Executive Director

RE: Presidents Playground Equipment

DATE: February 25, 2021



SUMMARY:

Staff has requested bids for the replacement of President Park playground equipment that was installed in 1995.

In 2008, we developed a process for bidding playground equipment that allows for various manufacturers to submit proposals that fit within the budgeted amount. This has since proven to provide more competition and creativity in the designs submitted.

The first step was to conduct a survey of neighbors surrounding the park to see what types of equipment is desired. 781 neighbors were notified of the survey. Additionally it was posted on the Capital Projects page of the park district website. Staff received 194 completed surveys and compiled the results.

Staff then developed a set of criteria by which the new playground equipment would be rated based on the survey results. The criterion was incorporated into bid specifications. Bidders were asked to submit proposals that were within a budgeted dollar amount and met the goals outlined in the bid documents. Bidders were allowed to submit two proposals for each bid item.

Bids were solicited on January 19, 2021 and they were opened on February 5, 2021. The results were as follows:

<i>Contractor</i>	<i>5-12Yrs. Proposal A</i>	<i>5-12 Yrs. Proposal B</i>	<i>2-5 Yrs. Proposal A</i>	<i>2-5 Yrs. Proposal B</i>	<i>Swings Proposal A</i>	<i>Swings. Proposal B</i>	<i>Discount for all equipment</i>
Team REIL	\$33,999.00	\$56,997.00	\$44,999.00	\$22,599.00	\$4,215.00	\$4,215.00	5%
NuToys	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	No
J. Oliver Const.	\$54,142.00	\$53,324.00	\$19,366.00	\$23,692.00	\$8,748.00	\$6,807.00	No
Cunningham Recreation	\$61,460.57	\$59,050.30	\$16,843.56	\$18,918.54	\$5,694.63	\$6,026.14	No
Play Illinois	\$63,669.00	\$53,665.00	\$13,461.00	\$23,696.00	\$6,639.00	\$6,639.00	Included
Parkreation	\$64,599.00	\$64,531.00	\$15,040.00	\$15,108.00	\$4,361.00	\$4,361.00	No
Kompan	\$50,053.56	\$61,098.00	\$22,766.50	\$13,804.00	\$8,133.00	\$5,365.00	No

It is important to note that our specifications emphasized the quality of design as long as it was within the budget amount. This is the reason that many of the bids are similar dollar amounts. This also means that the bids are likely discounted from the “catalog” prices.

A committee of 7 staff members who are directly responsible for various aspects of playground installation, maintenance and safety met to review the various proposals. Information provided by references was reviewed, and staff’s experience with various manufacturers and representatives was discussed at the meeting as well. The members of the committee then rated the proposals individually according to the criteria. Individual ratings were compiled and averaged to narrow the list. A final design was selected from that list as a group.

The preferred proposal based on budget and staff’s rating were from Cunningham Recreation. Staff has been pleased with their products and the references provided. **Other equipment from this manufacturer can be found at Kelly and Rathje Parks. It was also recently installed at Madison School.** If approved, playground equipment is anticipated to arrive in May.

Two items that were each suggested by approximately 20 percent of respondents in the survey were a zip line and adult exercise equipment. These are not included in the design at this time for several reasons. A zip line would have taken up approximately half of the area available for the playground replacement. Because of the large use zone, the surfacing can also be costly. We used engineered wood fiber for surfacing on the two zip lines we currently have at Scottdale and Northside Parks. With the flooding at Presidents Park, it would be recommended to use a unitary surface. The estimated cost to add a zip line would be \$16,200 for equipment and \$35,175 for surfacing. Adult exercise equipment could be added as well. For reference, the cost of equipment added at Northside Park was \$24,000 for equipment and \$18,300 for surfacing. Installation would be an additional cost if not done by staff. These would need to be budgeted in a future year.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:

Prior survey results presented at July 2017 B&G meeting

An amended lease with the City of Wheaton was presented at October 14, 2020 B&G meeting.

REVENUE OR FUNDING IMPLICATIONS:

\$250,000 is budgeted within the current fiscal year (40-800-845-57-5701-0000). This includes playground equipment and any other necessary site work such as concrete sidewalks and curbs. Unitary safety surfacing will be bid separately after the site design is complete. Half of the surfacing is budgeted in this account, with the other half being drawn from accessibility funding* (40-000-000-12-1224-0000).

Traditionally our projects crew has installed our playgrounds. It typically takes them a little longer to complete installation since they are the same crew that is responsible for supporting many of our special events as well as getting the pools operational. Given the possibility that restrictions may ease and we could have a larger amount of programming this year, additional funds were budgeted to contract this installation. The remaining \$166,001.24 in the budget would be available for this. Once the design is approved, we will seek bids for installation while we are awaiting delivery of the equipment.

STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:

We have had several neighbors inquire about the existing condition and status of replacing this playground since we first began discussing this in 2018.

During the survey that was described above, we also had approximately 20% of respondents comment about the flooding at the park. We are working with the City of Wheaton on doing some grading to raise the footprint of the playground slightly and reduce the severity of flooding on the equipment. This will be factored into the construction bid.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Contract documents were provided by our legal counsel and they have provided previous favorable opinions of this bidding process.

ATTACHMENTS:

Community Survey Response and recommended playground equipment design

Staff ranking sheets

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioner's approve a contract with Cunningham Recreation for the Presidents Playground Equipment in the amount of \$83,998.76.

Staff may request the vendors make minor revisions to the equipment proposed to ensure the District receives equipment that is well suited to the site and the desires of the neighborhood. Any modifications to the proposals will remain within the budget for equipment described above.