

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Colin Smith, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

DATE: May 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution to recommend approval of a contract with Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. to make improvements to South University Park (\$39,575.00)

Attached for your review and recommendation is a resolution to approve a \$39,575.00 contract with Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. to make improvements to South University Park.

South University Park is a small corner park that currently contains trees and shrubs, a small ½ basketball court, and a bench and kiosk at the corner. The park once housed a small playground and was more actively used by the neighborhood when it was populated by young families. Currently, however, the neighborhood consists primarily of student housing and the park is used for the basketball court, and as a cut through to a bus stop. The corner bench is rarely used, and the kiosk is in a dilapidated state, and not serving its intended use.

The work includes removal of trees and shrubs that are overgrown and invasive, replacement of the existing basketball court which is in poor shape and undersized, removal of the bench and kiosk, and installation of three new benches located on the interior of the park along a new concrete walk that bisects the park, a picnic table, and native flowering trees and shrubs as well as extensive grading to the site. The neighborhood school, Angell Elementary School, contains a large play area, and the meeting attendees felt that it would not be beneficial to reintroduce a new play area to the park.

The project is being funded by a donation of \$50,000.00 from Leslie and Michael Morris, who used to live by the park and would like to see improvements made to make the park more attractive and usable. Funding is available in the approved FY2012 Park Memorials and Contributions budget (Fund 0034) A public meeting was held on January 12, 2012, in which several neighbors and other interested parties attended. Concept designs were sent to the meeting attendees and a plan was approved.

Bids were received from ten contractors:

Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc.	\$39,575.00*
A to Z Recreation	\$41,681.00
Ahern Contracting	\$43,976.00

Margolis Companies	\$46,650.00
Caasti Contracting	\$47,121.00
D & J Contracting	\$47,348.00
Rolar Properties	\$65,506.00
A & M Construction	\$65,632.00
E & L Construction	\$66,787.00
Audia Concrete	\$86,400.67

*Lowest Responsible Bid

Staff is recommending awarding a contract to Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. in the amount of \$39,575.00 for improvements to South University Park. Council is also requested to approve a 10% construction contingency (\$3,958.00) to cover potential contract change orders to be approved by the City Administrator. It is requested that \$43,533.00 be approved for the construction contract and associated contingency for the life of the project without regard to fiscal year.

Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. meets the living wage and prevailing wage requirements and received Human Rights approval on April 4, 2012.

Prepared by: Amy Kuras, Landscape Architect II
Approved by: Colin Smith, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH TERRA-FIRMA LANDSCAPE, INC. TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH UNIVERSITY PARK (\$39,575.00)

Whereas, the South University Park is in need of improvements to address the deteriorated basketball court, invasive and overgrown landscape,

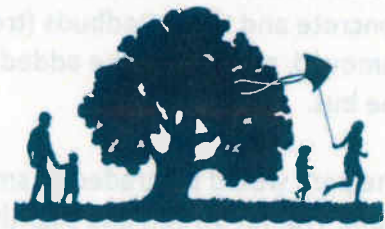
Whereas, Competitive bids were received by Purchasing on March 27, 2012 ;

Whereas, Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. submitted the lowest responsive bid;

Whereas, Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. received Human Rights approval on April 4, 2012; and

Whereas, Funding for the project was donated by Leslie and Michael Morris, former neighbors of the park, and is available in the approved FY2012 Parks Memorials and Contributions budget (Fund 0034)

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommends approval of a contract with Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. to make improvements to South University Park and recommend authorization of a construction contingency of \$3,958.00 (10%) to cover potential contract change orders to be approved by the City Administrator;



Parks & Recreation
CITY OF ANN ARBOR

South University Park Meeting Minutes and Concept Plan

February 2, 2012

Dear South University Park Neighbors and Friends:

This letter is to summarize the input received from the meeting held on January 10, 2012 and to share a concept plan for your comments. Eight people attended the meeting, and five people responded to the survey (with some overlap).

The park currently contains a small basketball court, trees, a bench and kiosk as well as an old concrete slab. The basketball court slab is cracked and the fence has been damaged. The lawn area is uneven and much of the existing landscape along the interior edges of the park consists of invasive shrubs. There are several Maples in the northeast corner of the park, and a grove of Walnuts in the center of the park. The corner bench and kiosk is not well used, and the existing shrubs block visibility into the park.

Concepts were presented at the meeting to provide a basis for discussion. There was general support to provide additional benches, a picnic table, and a path through the park. The basketball was seen as a positive asset to be renovated (although one survey respondent said it should be removed) and the invasive landscaping should be replaced using native species.

The proposed concept plan shows removal of the shrubs and invasive trees along the inside perimeter of the park. The big Box Elder near the basketball court has rotted at the base of the trunk, and should be removed for safety. The Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*) is invasive, and it would be a good long term plan to replace it with a native tree that will grow large over time. The concept plan proposes flowering trees, including Redbud and Serviceberry as well as Viburnum for the landscaped area, an Oak tree to replace the Tree of Heaven and Box Elder, and a Sycamore along Walnut Street to fill in the existing gap. North and east of the proposed walk would be woodchip landscape beds except for the area in front of the basketball court, which would be lawn and overstory trees only to provide better visibility to that corner of the park.

At the corner of Walnut and S. University, the plan would be simplified to provide a park sign in concrete and three Redbuds (tree form to allow visibility into the park). The bench would be removed, and a new one added along S. University where people congregate while waiting for the bus.

The park would be graded to smooth out uneven areas throughout the park, lower the berm along Walnut Street, and slightly lower the berm along South University, taking care not to damage the roots of the existing Walnut trees.

The basketball court would be replaced with a slightly larger court constructed of asphalt, and moved away from the fence to make it more visible and improve playability. The fence will be repaired behind the court.

The feedback received from Angell School is that they have no interest in using the park because it is so small, but the principal was supportive of the proposed renovations.

Please look over the proposed plan, and let me know by February 17 if you have any comments or suggestions by emailing akuras @a2gov.org, or calling 734-794-6230 ext.42590. If there are major changes, I will make those alterations and send out another plan. If there are not any significant changes, then I will work on construction drawings, and plan to get renovations underway this summer.

Thank you for participating in this project, your input is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,



Amy Kuras
Park Planner/Landscape Architect

New landscape areas -

- Redbud
- Serviceberry
- Viburnum

Using all native species



SOUTH UNIVERSITY PARK



South University Park

