

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Colin Smith, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

DATE: January 28, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolution to recommend submitting a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management for a Universal Access Playground at Gallup Park

Attached for your review and action is a resolution recommending the submission of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management (MDNRGM) for a Universal Access Playground at Gallup Park.

The City of Ann Arbor Park System has 80 playgrounds. However, none are designed as Universal Access Playgrounds. Universal Access Playgrounds exceed ADA requirements and strive to be as inclusive as possible. Consequently design and construction costs are higher than that of a playground that only needs to meet ADA code.

Parks & Recreation Services is fortunate to have the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor as a partner in this project. In 2016 the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor celebrates 100 years of service in the community and the Gallup Universal Access Playground is their chosen centennial project. The Rotary Club has committed to raising \$250,000.00 toward the construction of the playground.

One of the main goals identified in the current Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan is to “achieve and maintain a balanced park, recreation, and open space system, accessible to all of the community.” To do so, the following action is identified: “focus on providing play areas that are designed to allow disabled users greater opportunities.”

The playground will replace an existing playground, currently located near the far east parking lot and children’s fishing pond. This playground is identified in the Capital Improvements Plan as needing renovation and in 2013 portions of it were closed for repairs. The Universal Access Playground will be located in the same general location of the park.

The City contribution to the project will be \$100,000.00 and is noted in the Capital Improvements Plan under Playgrounds and Neighborhood Park Improvements.

The preliminary budget estimate for the project is \$500,000.00 and includes design, equipment, construction, and landscaping. Construction on the playground would

commence in 2016 with a ground breaking anticipated around Memorial Day and a grand opening near Labor Day.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND SUBMITTING GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GRANTS
MANAGEMENT FOR A UNIVERSAL ACCESS PLAYGROUND AT GALLUP
PARK

Whereas, The City park system does not have a Universal Access Playground;

Whereas, The Park and Recreation Open Space Plan identifies an area of focus as providing play areas that are designed to allow disabled users greater opportunities;

Whereas, The playground at Gallup Park is in need of replacement;

Whereas, The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor has committed \$250,000.00 toward a Universal Access Playground in celebration of their upcoming centennial year in 2016; and

Whereas, Grants are available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management to assist in funding improvements such as this project;

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommends that City Council directs the City Administrator to apply to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management for a Universal Access Playground at Gallup Park.