



Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department

ACTION CALENDAR
April 27, 2009

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: William Rogers, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
By: Deborah Chernin, Principal Planner

Subject: East Bay Regional Park District - Measure WW Public Process and Schedule

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission 1) recommend that Council approve the public process for identifying community priorities for the use of Measure WW funding as outlined by staff; 2) create a subcommittee or name a Commissioner as the primary point of contact for working with staff on this process; and 3) identify the criteria for prioritizing projects.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City has identified over \$40 million in unfunded capital improvements at City parks and recreation facilities. (See CIP Overview Report also in today's packet.) Measure WW will provide the City with \$4.876 million for park improvements over the next nine years. The \$4.876 million from Measure WW will not be sufficient to address all of the capital improvement needs. Therefore, the City must establish criteria and identify priorities for use of the Measure WW funds. Staff is recommending that the Parks and Recreation Commission work with staff to conduct a public process to hear the community's input on projects and priorities. The process will culminate in a Commission recommendation to the City Council.

Measure WW Overview and Eligibility

The City may submit project proposals annually to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) for approval based on several basic criteria, listed below. The selection process is not competitive and the City can determine which projects will be funded as long as the projects meet the criteria. Measure WW funding is available to the City from 2009 through the end of 2018 and project applications may be submitted annually.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to qualify, a project must:

1. Be related to the acquisition and/or development of park and recreational facilities that are open to the public;
2. Be consistent with the City's Open Space and Recreation Element of the 2002 General Plan;
3. Be located on land owned by the City or leased by the City for a minimum of twenty-five years;

4. Have completed the CEQA process and documentation.

In addition, projects may include the following:

1. Parks and recreation support facilities such as buildings, offices, parking lots, etc.;
2. Public art that is located within or adjacent to a park and recreation facility;
3. Historical restoration projects

The City may spend up to 20% of each project grant amount for “pre-construction” costs that include the following: grants administration, surveys, permits, design (plans and specifications), CEQA compliance and/or acquisition documents.

The following types of projects are not eligible for Measure WW funding:

1. Libraries;
2. Street beautification;
3. Master Plans;
4. Public art not associated with a parks and recreation facility;
5. Purchase of maintenance equipment;
6. Non-fixed equipment (e.g., movable soccer goals, portable air conditions, vehicles, etc.);
7. Recreation program operations and staff costs; and
8. Normal maintenance and repairs expected to last less than 25 years as determined by the District.

Project Selection and Prioritization Process

The Parks and Recreation Commission is the lead commission for the public process to identify priority projects for the Measure WW funding. Since there is a long list of capital improvements needed, it will be a challenge to identify priority projects and there are proposals for new projects that need to be considered as well. Staff recommends that the Commission identify a set of criteria that will be considered when making a recommendation to the City Council, as well as assigned relative levels of priority.

It is important to hear from as wide range of stakeholders as possible, so Staff is recommending that the Commission conduct a series of public hearings to receive additional input from the community about priorities. Staff recommends that the Commission request that interested community members submit a brief (1 page) proposal for each projects that they would like to see given the highest priority. Attached is a draft Project Proposal Form for this purpose. (See Attachment ___).

In addition, Staff is requesting that each Commissioner talk with their Councilmember about his/her priorities before the May 11, 2008 meeting so these projects can be factored in at the beginning of the discussion.

As there is an application deadline that must be met, it is staff's recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Commission, after the public hearings, develop and prioritize a manageable list of projects for serious consideration. At the end of the process, the Commission should identify up to three projects for submittal for each of the first three years of the program: 2010, 2011 and 2012. Applications may be submitted between February 1 and March 31 of each year.

Selection Criteria

The Commission has received a summary and detailed report on the \$40 million worth of unfunded capital needs for the parks, recreation and camp facilities. (See prior agenda item.)

There are several ways the Commission can determine priority project, such as:

1. By Type of Improvement

- Accessibility/ADA
- Infrastructure and Drainage
- Safety
- Program Improvements
- Environmental
- Historic
- Other

2. By Use:

- Ballfields
- Creek Restoration
- Historic Features
- Landscaping and Irrigation
- Picnic Areas
- Play Areas
- Recreation Centers
- Swim Centers
- Tennis/Basketball Courts
- Trails, Steps and Pathways
- Turf Play Areas
- Other

3. By Geographic Distribution City-wide:

- By Council District
- By Quadrants—North, East, South, West
- Other

Clearly, each of these types of projects, or the results thereof, is important to the community-at-large, and some have more vocal advocates than others. All of these things should be taken into consideration when determining the priority list.

The criteria shown above are not mutually exclusive. It may be helpful for the Commission to determine the general order of priority of each of the lists above. This information will also be helpful to staff in providing the related-data to the Commission for the May meeting.

Schedule

At the Commission’s March 23, 2009 meeting, staff proposed a timeline for the public process described above. After some discussion, the Commission asked staff to bring back a revised timeline reflecting their comments. Below is the revised timeline:

Staff presents a revised timeline and information on capital improvement needs and the Commission identifies the priority selection criteria.	April 2009
Commission conducts a public hearing to receive community input regarding priorities	May 2009
Commission continues the public hearing on community priorities and begins discussion	June 2009
Commission continues public hearing and continues discussion	July 2009
Commission closes public hearing and recommends a short list of projects for further consideration (All written requests must be received at or before this meeting.)	Sept 2009
Commission discussion resulting in a list of proposed/priority projects	Oct 2009
Follow up discussion with staff, if necessary	Nov 2009
Commission makes recommendation to City Council	Dec 2009
City Council takes action on Commission’s recommendation	Jan 2010
City submits funding proposal	Feb 2010

In a separate staff report on the same agenda, the Commission received both a summary list and a detail list of unfunded capital improvements.

Attachments:

1. Measure WW FAQs
2. Measure WW - Project Proposal Form
3. City of Berkeley General Plan 2002 – Open Space and Recreation Element