



Legislation Text

File #: 18-5545, **Version:** 1

PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION FOR ALLOCATION OF 2018 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK GRANT FUNDS

COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Address Quality of Place

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Neighborhood Park Grant Program is a capital program (budgeted in the capital projects fund) initiated by the City Council as a means of giving community groups the opportunity to improve and invest in their parks, and the city the ability to stretch its capital funds. Annually since 1997 the parks and recreation board has evaluated applications from neighborhood and community groups, sports organizations, service clubs, and individuals wishing to invest in a project within the park system. The board's recommendations are then presented to the council for final approval.

The \$25,000 that the council has usually budgeted each year for the NPG Program has been used to fund a wide variety of projects. (See the attached list of past sponsors and their projects.) Along with whatever city funds are approved, project applicants are required to contribute a matching amount in cash and/or the value of paid labor and materials; in other words they contribute out of pocket expenses for projects on at least a 1:1 ratio, and sometimes much more. Applicants must complete their projects in entirety and then submit for reimbursement for out of pocket expenses up to 50% of the total cost project.

Project applications are evaluated on the basis of community need, community impact (who will benefit from a project), extent of facility usage or availability during the year, project life span and cost-benefit, future maintenance requirements, readiness to proceed, partnering, enhancement of safety and security, and other factors. The parks board met last month to review applications for funding and now submits the recommendations as shown on the attached matrix for Council consideration. Copies of all of the applications received are also attached for the Council's information.

No applications were submitted during the February grant solicitation period. The Department reopened the grant period in June for the second time. Two applications were submitted for recommendation:

Harlie's Angles - Harlie's Hoops Project: \$20,000
Longview Babe Ruth - Field Improvements: \$5,000

These projects mark an amazing milestone within the Neighborhood Park Program. From 1997 to current, the City has provided \$487,665 in Matching Neighborhood Park Grants. This means over \$975,330 at a minimum has gone back into improving the park system. These recommended

projects once complete will mean that the city's grant program has provided for over a million dollars in citizen driven park improvements.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Motion to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's recommendations for the 2018 Neighborhood Park Grant Program.

STAFF CONTACT:

Jennifer Wills