



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Council Meeting Date: April 3, 2007

Staff Report #: 07-055

Agenda Item #: F 1

REGULAR BUSINESS: Consideration of Priorities Regarding Park and Recreation Improvement Projects for the Second Phase of Measure T Funding.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends proceeding with the programming study and design phase for the renovation of the Burgess Gymnasium/Gymnastics Center as the next major project to be undertaken using Measure T funds.

BACKGROUND

In the November 2001 municipal election, Menlo Park voters approved Measure "T" to issue general obligation bonds, phased over several years totaling \$38,000,000 for the renovation and expansion of City parks and recreation facilities. The sale of the first phase of this financing, resulting in the issuance of \$13.2 million in bonds, took place in April 2002. The City embarked on a series of projects to improve municipal parks and recreation facilities, the needs for which had been identified and established in the Cultural/Recreational Facilities Master Plan completed in 2001. A summary of the projects completed with the first phase (2002) of Measure T funds is included as Attachment A.

The Park and Recreation Commission and staff have conducted a public process for consideration of projects for funding from a second Measure T bond sale, resulting in the current recommendation to the Council.

ANALYSIS

Commission and staff reviewed what had not been done in the first phase of Measure T and reviewed the Recreation Master Plan report. The Commission agreed to present four areas for consideration in the community meetings. They included, the Burgess Gymnasium/Gymnastics Center, the Burgess Recreation Center, playing fields, and a miscellaneous category in order to capture any other

areas that had not been included. Commissioners Murano and Naclerio lead the participants through discussion and input on the four areas. Meeting participants then voted on a priority order, their wishes of what should be the next project.

Public meetings were held at Burgess Recreation Center on January 17, 2007 (during the Parks and Recreation monthly commission meeting), Little House on January 20, 2007 and Menlo Park Senior Center on January 25, 2007. The meetings were well publicized through articles in the local newspapers, email to 5,800 people from the Community Services Department email address list and 200 people through Little House's email list, and informational flyers provided to the recreational programs. The meetings were designed to encourage input from the program user groups and the general public. A total of 40 people attended the three meetings. The consensus from the community meetings was that modernizing and expanding the Burgess Gymnasium/Gymnastics Center should be the next major project to be undertaken using Measure T Funds.

Although there was consensus from all groups of participants that the gymnasium facilities were next in line for Measure T funding, participants stressed to the commissioners that the need for more playing fields in the Menlo Park area is only going to continue and will need to be addressed concurrently. In its review of the project priorities for fiscal year 2007–08, the Council acknowledged that the projects recommended for funding included a playing fields study for Kelly Park and Burgess Park. Additionally, the Council requested that a new project for a citywide study of new sport field locations be included in the projects to be funded in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Park and Recreation Commission met on March 21, 2007 to finalize its recommendation to City Council. The commission voted unanimously for the gymnasium facilities to be the next project for Measure T funding.

Next Steps

As part of the City's annual project priority setting process, staff proposed \$1.25 million in the FY 2007-08 budget for a Burgess Gymnasium/Gymnastics Center programming study and design. The programming study will identify uses, needs, staffing, and operational costs. Staff will work with the Park and Recreation Commission and user groups throughout the programming study to evaluate options, and develop cost estimates for a range of project alternatives. After the programming study is completed in 2007-08, the results will be brought back to the Council prior to proceeding with the design of the facility. The construction cost will be included in a future budget, but the expectation is that all of the funds generated from the next bond sale will need to be applied for the gym. Based on recent analysis by the City's bond advisor, Mark Curran, a summer 2008 Measure T bond issue could raise \$8 million to \$8.5 million for recreation projects. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2009.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

If approved by the Council as part of its Fiscal Year 2007-08 budget, the initial phase including the programming study and design work is estimated at a cost of \$1,250,000, primarily for consultant services. Funding is available from the balance of the Measure T Phase 1 Bond issue to fund the project.

POLICY ISSUES

The recommendation does not represent any change to existing City policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The authorization to proceed with a programming study and preliminary design work is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). However, approval and construction of a specific project may require environmental review depending on the scope of the proposed project.

Barbara Santos George, Director
Community Services Department

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS: A - Completed Measure T Projects

COMPLETED MEASURE T PROJECTS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Measure T Funds Spent</u>
Menlo Children's Center	\$ 1,660,000
Burgess Park	\$ 3,500,000
Oak Knoll School	\$ 195,038
Nealon Park	\$ 1,300,000
Encinal School	\$ 28,418
Tinker Park	\$ 59,137
La Entrada School	\$ 276,000
Stanford Hills Park	\$ 230,749
Burgess Pool & Locker Room	\$ 6,868,712
Sharon Park	\$ 107,205
Various Park Improvements	\$ 90,327
Sharon Hills Park	\$ 230,749
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TOTAL	\$ 14,373,404