



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Date: April 29, 2013
To: Recreation and Park Commission
From: Lisa Bransten
Director of Partnerships
Re: Larsen Park Renovations

Agenda Item Wording

Discussion and possible action to 1) accept from San Francisco RBI a grant-in-place of goods and services valued at approximately \$40,000 to renovate the baseball field at Larsen Park, and 2) authorize staff to enter into a grant-acceptance agreement to govern the design and installation of the baseball field improvements on terms consistent with the Department's other in-kind grant agreements.

Background

"Diamonds and Dreams" is a contest run by Chevrolet and the Scotts Company in partnership with Major League Baseball "MLB" that awards baseball field renovations to communities all over the US. Earlier this year, MLB awarded a \$40,000 grant for a field renovation to San Francisco RBI "SF RBI," a youth-serving non-profit that brings a baseball-inspired reading curriculum to underserved youth in San Francisco. Since SF RBI does not own any fields and because it has used Department baseball fields for practices and games under regular permits, the organization has proposed to give its grant to the Department.

As part of the Diamonds and Dreams program, Chevrolet and Scotts contracted with Ripken Management and Design LLC "Ripken" – a national athletic field designer and consultant – and Sport Fields Inc. "Fields" – a national field construction firm – to develop and execute on a scope of work for each local baseball field project. As discussed below, if the Commission approves acceptance of SF RBI's grant. the Department will work with Ripken and Sports Field to develop and execute the field renovation.

FIELD SELECTION

Larsen Field at 19th Avenue between Ulloa and Vicente Streets in the Sunset District was selected by Department operations staff as a field where a \$40,000 grant would make the most difference and would benefit the largest number of youth in San Francisco. Larsen is a smaller baseball field that is used primarily by players up to 12 years old. During baseball season the diamond is in near-constant use during after-school hours and on the weekends during the school year.

LARSEN FIELD CONDITIONS

Several years ago, department gardeners successfully eradicated many of the gophers from Larsen Field but the field remains very uneven due to collapsed and hardened gopher mounds and tunnels. In addition, the aging irrigation system on the field does not adequately or evenly water the turf so that at drier times of year, conditions can be uneven and difficult to play.



The infield is also in need of repair in part due to its heavy use by mixed age groups. Over the years the infield dirt has become very compacted and rock-like and a large “lip” has developed where the dirt meets the grass. Also, the pitcher’s circle (there is no mound in order to allow different age groups to pitch from different distances) has become uneven from heavy use and use by different age groups pitching from different places in the circle.

In addition to these infield and outfield conditions, the wooden boards of both the backstop and players benches at the site are aging and in need of repair.

THE PROJECT

On April 16, 2013, Department staff met on site with representatives from SF RBI and Ripken to develop a scope of work for the project. Ripken staff agreed with Department staff’s assessment of field conditions and all parties agreed upon the following preliminary scope of work to be performed under the grant subject to budget constraints:

1. Top dress and overseed the outfield to create a more even surface and improve the health of the turf.
2. Deep-tyne/scarify the infield and remove the “lips” near the basepaths where dirt and turf meet in order to make a softer playing surface.
3. Reshape the pitcher’s circle and create a path to home plate so that it can be used by a variety of age groups without damaging the
4. Replace irrigation heads at the site.
5. Replace/repair/repaint backstop boards
6. Install new player’s benches.

Department staff, Ripken and Fields are still working to determine the precise scope of work that can be accomplished at the site under the \$40,000 grant budget. The Department is seeking Commission approval to undertake as many of the above-listed repairs as possible.

There is some urgency to the project because Department permit and turf management staff believe the project needs to take place in June in order to cause the least impact on baseball and soccer programming in San Francisco and still provide adequate time for the field improvements to set. In addition, there are significant cost savings to undertaking the project in June because Fields already has plans to have a unit of workers and equipment in the area at that time so the \$40,000 grant could allow for more work to be done.

AGREEMENT

In addition to finalizing the scope of work, Department staff are working to complete a grant acceptance agreement consistent with other agreements from non-profit groups contributing in-kind grants to the department. This agreement will ensure that the contractor(s) performing the field renovation meets all City and Department requirements including but not limited to maintenance of insurance, ensuring public safety and posting appropriate signage.

Financial Impact

Approximately \$40,000 in-kind grant

Recommendation

Department management and staff recommend that the Commission accept the grant-in-place from San Francisco RBI valued at \$40,000 for the renovation of Larsen Field, and authorize staff to execute a grant acceptance agreement governing construction of the improvements.

Supported by

SF RBI

San Francisco Little League

Opposed By

No known at this time

Attachment

- Project Area Map

People to contact:

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