



MEMORANDUM

City of Angels City Council

Date: July 16, 2024

To: City Council

From: Amy Augustine, AICP – Contract City Planner

Re: Rural Recreation and Tourism Program - Utica Park Lightner Mine Expansion Project Update

Recommendation:

Acknowledge and accept updates.

Background:

Consistent with direction from the City Council, attached is an update on the above-captioned project through July 9, 2024.

Strategic Plan Alignment

A4: Economic Development: Promote a wide variety of economic opportunities consistent with the city's social, cultural, environmental, and aesthetic resources. The proposed Rural Recreation and Tourism grant park project is intended to increase tourism through park enhancements including a stage, historical (cultural) interpretation trail, and improved pavilion for outdoor events. A new children's playground, adult/teen exercise equipment, bocce courts, hardcourts, improved pavilion and stage are intended to encourage social interactions with local theatre productions, local musical performances, movies in the park and enhanced outdoor spaces for other local events.

A5: Economic Development: Maintain and enhance the city's economic vitality while conserving the city's social, cultural, environmental, and aesthetic resources. See above.

B2 Community Identity: Design new development to be compatible with the natural, scenic, and cultural resources and rural character of Angels Camp. The Community Stakeholders Design Committee will assist with park design to ensure compatibility with cultural resources and rural character.

C7: Public Facilities and Services: Maintain or increase the levels of service currently available within Angels Camp for park facilities and infrastructure. The project will increase the size of Utica Park by 3.8± acres, add or improve numerous park amenities, and upgrade and expand infrastructure increasing the level of park facilities available to all age groups and ability levels for residents and visitors.

Discussion

Construction

Phase 1:

Continues on schedule. Curbing has been completed around the proposed playground. The pad for the new bathrooms has been prepared. Playground equipment officially began arriving 7/8/24 and is being accumulated at the SPEC playground contractor in Modesto. The contractor is expected on site commencing 7/11/24 and is

expected to remain until the playground is completed. Final site visits in preparation for the arrival of the bathrooms is being scheduled.

A July newsletter was released. A note on how to keep up-to-date on the park is being included in the next water invoice.

Future phases:

Work is being completed to clear the way for proceeding with upcoming phases. The vertical shafts at the park have been plugged. Commencing 7/10/24, final dirt work above the plugged shafts is scheduled. Initial work has begun on the pavilion (removing the old roof and repairing the underlayment).

Architectural design of the outdoor stage has been completed and is undergoing review by the structural engineer.

Renovation of the Mark Twain statue officially began with sandblasting the statue on 7/9/24. The jumping frog "model" once attached to Mark Twain has been placed in the care of Lanzini and Sons and currently resides at their studio where a cast is in production and three new leaping frogs are being crafted. Some further work on the pedestal is pending. The return of the statue to the pedestal may be intentionally delayed until the park re-opening to ensure that equipment and construction does not damage the statue.

A QR Code and Survey Monkey poll asking for input on the final location of the Mark Twain Statue was released online and is available at the museum. Approximately 25 votes (as of 7/9/24) have been received.

Design and Build Contract Process

Boyer Construction was selected to design and build the project. A design and build contract is unlike a construction-only contract. Construction-only contracts generally are used to construct a new road, widen an existing road, construct a new bridge, construct a new building. Construction-only contracts are awarded after construction documents are complete (i.e., detailed construction drawings and building plans) and all necessary permits have been reviewed and are issued (e.g., building permits, grading permits). At that point, a Notice to Proceed "NTP" is normally issued under a construction-only contract. The Utica Park/Lightner Mine Expansion Project is NOT one of those projects. It is a design and build project.

As a design and build contract, the park renovation requires a design phase first, followed by the creation of construction documents, followed by construction. Finalizing a site plan for this project was contingent upon completing geotechnical evaluations. The City approved a site plan April 16, 2024. This was followed by finalizing a survey to ensure the approved site plan could move forward. This was accomplished April 30, 2024. **A notice to proceed was issued and became effective on May 14, 2024, for 307 workdays.**

Park construction will be phased. This means park construction will begin before 100% of all park construction documents are completed. Construction will be consecutive. Construction for each element will commence upon completion of plans for that park element. Because the site plan for the playground was approved months ago, playground construction requires relatively minimal grading, and all park equipment was ordered in April with an expectation of delivery 12 weeks later (i.e., July).

While playground construction is being completed, plans for the next targeted park amenity will be completed so that construction on the next park element can begin...and so on and so on and so on until the park is completed. Following playground construction, it is anticipated, subject to change, that underground work for utilities in the existing park will occur followed by installing the new bathrooms, mine remediation and design of the outdoor stage and pavilion.

Activity summary:

- The park's Constant Contact e-mail notification database created for persons interested in park updates, newsletters, status reports includes 201 individuals. Please send an e-mail to cda@angelscamp.gov with a subject line "Utica Park" to receive notifications.

- Wood for park benches from the walnut trees is at the mill. It is anticipated that approximately 3-4 benches will be produced. A final cost for each is nearly complete.
- Parties interested in sponsoring a memorial tree or a memorial bench are encouraged to submit their name to cda@angelscamp.gov. To date, there are eight individuals expressing interest, some for multiple trees or benches. Signing up does not commit individuals to a purchase. Interested persons will be notified once costs are determined.
- Staff is requesting that anyone with a brand from a local ranch contact planning@angelscamp.gov. The city would like to incorporate local brands into one or more of the benches being constructed for the park. Staff has three sign-ups for local brands and has reached out to the Cattleman's Association (Nicolas Valente) and Farm Bureau (Toni Ann Fischer) for additional interest.
- The interpretive sign committee met April 30, 2024. The Committee is editing content and selecting photos for 8 interpretive signs. Committee members are Judith Marvin (historian), Tad Folendorf (historian), James G. Respass, Ph.D. (graphic design), Amy Augustine, Rebecca Callen. Interpretive sign language for the Mother Lode Belt, Lightner Mine, Utica Mine, persons associated with the mines, and Nationalities represented in the has been drafted. Overview of a working mine, and supplemental information related to Mark Twain is pending. QR codes are also proposed for various locations and on interpretive signs to provide additional information. The concept sign design was presented to the Community Stakeholders Design Committee 3/20/24. Signage will be brought back to the Stakeholders Design Committee in late July.
- Monuments, Dedications, and Relocations. Staff has met with all individuals or organizations associated with each monument to ensure they are handled properly. Surviving relatives of fallen soldiers on the veteran's memorial plaque have been contacted individually and their input will be followed for any potential relocation and rededication. Boyer is aware of all restrictions related to moving and conserving park monuments.
- The "gateway" monumentation (mining equipment) near Napa was reviewed by the City of Angels Planning Commission. The Planning Commission approved relocating the equipment. Interpretive signage for the equipment will be added at its new location. Boyer is further investigating if costs to reinforce the gateway monumentation can occur instead of relocation.

Financial Impact

See attached budget.

Attachments

- A. Approved Site Layout
- B. Timeline
- C. Budget