

# Accept a Grant Communication Boards City Parks

Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director  
City Council Meeting  
August 20, 2024

# Summary

- Question
  - City Council is being asked to accept a grant from the Channing's Joy Foundation to install communication boards at all city parks
- Options
  - Approve
  - Deny
  - Other
- Declaration
  - Staff recommends accepting the grant, as this furthers the goal of having all-inclusive park facilities

# Purpose

- To consider accepting a grant from the Channing's Joy Foundation
- For the construction & installation of communication boards at all city parks ([www.channingsjoy.com](http://www.channingsjoy.com) )
- To benefit nonverbal children & caregivers in communications at playgrounds

# Background

- City received request from a resident to accept a grant (Channing's Joy Foundation) to install a communication board at Raymond Rimkus Park
  - Autistic children & other nonverbal persons would have an easier time communicating at playground
- After discussion, staff asked if the grant could include donating these boards at all city park facilities
- After consideration, the Foundation agreed

# Communication Board

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# Communication Board

- Boards made of all-weather sign with wood or metal posts affixed low to the ground, depicting customizable symbols
  - slide, merry go round, home, characters in action, etc., & explanation of use
- Geared towards nonverbal children & other persons, specifically for those on autism spectrum
  - Aids in communications between nonverbal & caregiver
  - Ms. Manley would donate time to design customized symbols for each park

# Communication Board

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# Purpose

- Boards make communication less stressful
  - Nonverbal person points to symbol to communicate with caregiver
  - Boards have explanation on one side to let others know how to use them
  - Also useful for children 2-4 yrs - may even become a game play feature
- Leon Valley would be first city in County to include in public playgrounds
- Furthers goal of ADA & all-inclusive playgrounds



# Fiscal Impact

- Channing's Joy Foundation is donating the boards, including installation, to the city
  - PW Crew will maintain, but signs are commercial grade, all-weather & should last for years
- Parents of persons with disabilities pay property & sales taxes used to support city parks
- Inclusion of boards will assist nonverbal children in using the park equipment & property that parents helped fund

# Recommendation

- Staff recommends accepting the grant