



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 4/25/2023

**REQUESTER:** James Briggs, Park Development Coordinator

**PRESENTER:** Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, ADOPTION, REJECTION, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP-2223-56 AND CONTRACT K-2223-140: A CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND ACS PLAYGROUND ADVENTURES, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000, PERFORMANCE BOND B-2223-77; STATUTORY BOND B-2223-78, AND MAINTENANCE BOND MB-2223-63 FOR THE BENTLEY PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT, AND RESOLUTION R-2223-123 GRANTING TAX EXEMPT STATUS.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

In October 2015, Norman residents passed the Norman Forward Initiative, which funds various projects through a ½ % sales tax increase over 15 years. Included in the Norman Forward Initiative is a project to build new neighborhood parks. The funds for this project are “pay-go,” meaning it can only be completed once the funds are available. The overall NORMAN FORWARD Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan was presented to the Board of Park Commissioners in March 2017 and then to the City Council in May 2017 for approval. Songbird Park was the first new neighborhood park built with Norman Forward funding in 2019. Bentley Park will be the second. In April of 2022, the Norman Board of Park Commissioners named the park after Lionel Bentley after Mr. Bentley passed away and the family donated \$230,000 to the Norman Park Foundation for park improvements around Norman. The new Bentley Park will serve the Bellatona and Summit Valley neighborhoods located near the intersections of Imhoff Road and 36<sup>th</sup> Ave SE.

The Bentley Park Playground Project will include a playground area with separate equipment for children aged 2-5 years and 5-12 years old, complete with synthetic grass safety surfacing and shade coverings.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Bentley Park Playground was advertised on February 11 & 17, 2023 (RFP Number 2223-56) in the *Norman Transcript*, *Southwest Construction News*, *Bid News*, *Construct Connect*, and *Dodge Report*. Requests for proposals were distributed directly to five playground equipment vendors, four of whom responded with proposals.

Parks and Recreation staff evaluated the playground proposals based on providing the optimum number of diverse play events, overall play area, and age appropriateness for the neighborhood. The play equipment chosen maximized play value for all ages by incorporating multi-level play decks, stand-alone spinners, climbing components, and slides with heights that range from 3 feet to 8 feet tall. This range of equipment allows children of all ages to enjoy the equipment in various ways. The additional stand-alone play components in the playground include other unique play equipment, which sets it apart from other proposals and makes the playground even more innovative and able to accommodate a range of ages and abilities on this equipment. All bidders were asked to maximize the \$200,000 playground budget and include accessible features in their proposal. When the different projects were compared, it was determined that the playground offered by ACS Playground Adventures Inc. presented the most significant number and variety of play features versus the total price.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1:**

It is recommended that Request for Proposal RFP 2223-56 be awarded to ACS Playground Adventures, Inc., in the amount of \$200,000 for the Bentley Park Playground Project. The funding of \$200,000 is available for this project in the Norman Forward New Neighborhood Parks Account (account 51798830-46101; project NFP104)

**RECOMMENDATION NO.2:**

It is further recommended that City Council approve Contract K-2223-140, Performance Bond B-2223-77, Statutory Bond B-2223-78, and Maintenance Bond MB-2223-63

**RECOMMENDATION NO.3:**

It is further recommended that ACS Playground Adventures Inc. be authorized and appointed as project agents for the Bentley Park Playground Project by Resolution Number R-2223-123 to avoid the payment of sales tax on the purchase of equipment and materials for the project.