



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 1/23/2024

REQUESTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2324-112: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, ADOPTING THE ANDREWS PARK MASTER PLAN DEVELOPED BY COPELAND DESIGN COLLECTIVE.

BACKGROUND:

The 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Plan included funding from the Community Park Land Development Fund for a project to hire a design consultant to create a Master Plan for Andrews Park in downtown Norman. Andrews Park is our oldest park, included in the first plat of Norman's original town site in 1889. It has served the community for over 100 years and includes WPA-Era structures such as the amphitheater, the old stone buildings, and the rock-lined channel that passes through the park's south edge. It is also home to sports courts, practice spaces, and more recent features, such as the first splash pad built in Norman in the early 2000s, the newly constructed Blake Baldwin Skatepark, and our most recent inclusive playground. There is a mixture of old and new walking trails and several mature trees, although several others were lost to the tornado that damaged the park in 2012. After decades of use and countless events, concerts, and festivals, staff has determined that it is time to plan for the next 100 years—starting with this design phase.

DISCUSSION:

In June 2023, Request for Proposal RFP-2223-80 for Professional Design Services for the Andrews Park Master Plan was advertised in the Norman Transcript and on the City of Norman website. After interviewing the top five submitting firms, a contract was awarded to Copeland Design Collective, PLLC (CDC) from Oklahoma City in August 2023.

The CDC team is comprised of Copeland Design Collective (Landscape Architects from OKC) along with RDG Planning + Design (Planners recently hired for the Norman Comp Plan), Butzer Architects and Urbanism (Architecture firm that created the OKC Bombing Memorial and the Skydance Bridge at Scissortail Park, among several other local projects), and Garver Engineering for Civil Engineer services (including the engineer used for the skatepark mentioned above in Andrews Park).

The process of designing the park master plan involved a series of public input meetings, a steering committee comprised of local park user groups, and an intensive three-day design workshop held at the development center, where the team met with multiple city staff members from each Department to discuss how Andrews Park intersects with their daily operations. Another vital part of the planning process included getting current opinions of probable costs, funding sources, and a phasing plan. The phasing plan allows any parts of the plan that can be done shortly to be proposed as part of the annual budget and work plan for the Parks and Recreation staff or as part of any future program of park system improvements.

The work was completed in October and the final concept was presented to the Park Board in November and at a City Council Study Session in December. Based on the feedback received at those meetings and the last meeting with the project steering committee, the Andrews Park Master Plan is now being submitted for adoption by the City of Norman (attached). The project plan includes current costs and projections for cost increases, should the project be broken into a multi-year or future-year(s) proposal.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by staff that City Council approve Resolution R-2324-112 to adopt the Andrews Park Master Plan as completed by Copeland Design Collective.