



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/12/2024

REQUESTER: James Briggs, Park Development Manager

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2324-125: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND HAPPY PLAYGROUNDS LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$220,000, MAINTENANCE BOND MB-2324-48, PERFORMANCE BOND B-2324-48; AND STATUTORY BOND B-2324-49 FOR THE SUNRISE PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT, AND RESOLUTION R-2324-107 GRANTING TAX EXEMPT STATUS.

BACKGROUND:

In October 2015, Norman residents passed the Norman Forward initiative, which funds various projects through a ½ % sales tax increase over 15 years. The Norman Forward Initiative includes a project to improve existing neighborhood parks. The funds for this project are “pay-go,” meaning projects 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.

DISCUSSION:

On October 27th and November 10th, 2023, RFP Number 2324-26 for the Sunrise Park Playground Project was advertised in the *Norman Transcript*. Requests for proposals were distributed directly to seven playground equipment vendors, six of whom responded with complete proposals.

Parks and Recreation staff carefully evaluated the playground proposals based on providing the optimum number of diverse play events, overall play areas, and age appropriateness for the neighborhood. The play equipment we have chosen maximized play value for all ages by incorporating multi-level play decks, net climbers, stand-alone spinners, climbing components, slides, and swings for all ages and a wide range of abilities. This combination of equipment allows children of all ages to enjoy the equipment in various ways. The unique features of the design set it apart from other proposals and make 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 \$220,000 playground budget and include accessible features in their proposal.

When the different projects were compared, it was determined that the playground offered by Happy Playgrounds LLC presented the most significant number and variety of play features versus the total price.

Staff recommends awarding Contract Number K-2324-125 to Happy Playgrounds LLC, in the total amount of \$220,000 for the Sunrise Park Playground Project.

RECOMMENDATION 1: It is recommended that Request for Proposal RFP 2324-26 be awarded to Happy Playgrounds LLC in the amount of \$220,000 for the Sunrise Park Playground Project. The funding of \$220,000 is available for this project in the Norman Forward Neighborhood Parks Improvement Project, Construction (account 51798830-46101; project NFP101).

RECOMMENDATION 2: It is further recommended that City Council approve Contract K-2324-125, Performance Bond B-2324-48, Statutory Bond B-2324-49, and Maintenance Bond MB-2324-48

RECOMMENDATION 3: It is further recommended that Happy Playgrounds, LLC, be authorized and appointed as project agent for the Sunrise Park Playground Project by Resolution R-2324-107 to avoid payment of sales tax on equipment and materials purchases related to the project.