

AGENDA



Thursday, December 11, 2008

**Contract and Land Management
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 21

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC., AUSTIN, TX for engineering services for Southern Walnut Creek Trail in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Chris Dry 974-6740; Rosie Truelove 974-3064; April Thedford 974-7141

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of twelve (12) statements received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 16.50% MBE and 14.20% WBE subcontractor participation.

The Southern Walnut Creek Trail is a significant part of the Walnut Creek Trail System, which will eventually connect north Austin with the Colorado River. The 7.3 mile long Southern Walnut Creek Trail will extend from Govalle Park to the new parkland on Johnny Morris Road.

The selected firm is to provide design services for the design and construction phases. The entire 14 foot wide trail will be constructed of concrete, including 5 bridges, 3 culverts, signage, benches, and parking lots at trailheads. There will be trailheads at Johnny Morris Road and Govalle Park.

The funding for the trail comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation and is administered by the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Department of Transportation is providing a grant in the amount of \$8,080,000 and the Parks and Recreation Department is providing a match in the amount of \$2,000,000. The trail will conform to AASHTO standards for construction.

This request allows for the development of a professional service agreement with the recommended firm. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the recommended firm, negotiations will cease with that firm. Staff will then return to Council and request authorization to begin negotiations with the alternate recommendation listed below.

Participation subgoals stated in the solicitation were 1.70% African American; 9.50% Hispanic; 5.30% Native / Asian Americans; 14.20% WBE. The recommended and alternate firm provided a MBE/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and were approved by the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the subject services was sent to 261 firms on June 4, 2008. The RFQ was obtained by 62 firms, and 12 firms submitted qualification statements. Three of the firms were certified M/WBE firms. Of the 12 firms evaluated, five firms were

short-listed and interviewed. Interviewing of the short-listed firms results in the following recommendation.