



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: April 17, 2014

SUBJECT: Funding Recommendation for the Asian American Resource Center Kitchen Expansion

As was requested during the City Council Work Session on March 18, 2014, Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) staff would like to provide additional detail in regards to the recommended funding plan for the Asian American Resource Center (AARC) Kitchen Expansion project. The funding plan below is based on an assumption that there will be no mid-year appropriation.

PARC considered multiple options and recommends the utilization of program-level funding under the [Facility Renovations and Improvements] category of funding under the 2012 G.O. Bond program. Specifically, the unencumbered balance of funds referenced during the Work Session comes from the [Recreation Facilities] program, a subordinate program under [Facility Renovations and Improvements], which received an appropriation of \$1,685,000 in FY 2014. This funding is intended to provide for renovation of pool, playscape, trail, sport court, athletic field facilities, and other recreation facilities. While there is a general recommended program for expenditures under this area and, projects may be deferred, PARC has the ability to reallocate this funding for the AARC Kitchen.

Each year as we draft our five year capital spending plan and prepare our proposed capital budget, we evaluate our needs for Facility Renovations and Improvements. Based upon those needs and changing conditions, we may add new projects as new needs arise, move projects to an earlier year, delay projects as well as address project estimate overruns and project savings. All projects must still need the parameters outlined in the 2012 G.O. Bond proposition language, however, we do have some flexibility within the program to meet our changing needs.

This action to reallocate funding for the AARC Kitchen may ultimately impact the overall funding available for renovations under the [Recreation Facilities] program. However, there may also be an overall savings throughout the life of the bond program whereby projects may come under budget. Any savings which are generated may allow PARC the opportunity to proceed with projects that were once deferred. It is likely that projects at the following park locations may be deferred based upon the re-prioritization of the 2012 G.O. Bond funding to the AARC Kitchen Expansion:

- Sport Court Renovations – Rosewood, Eastwoods, Garrison, Patterson and Joslin Parks
- Athletic Field Renovations – Parque Zaragoza, Rosewood, Hancock, Govalle and South Austin Parks

Although these areas are in need of renovations, the AARC kitchen project is needed to fully realize a senior congregate meal program the City Council approved funding for in this year's budget. Currently, the congregate meal program to seniors at the AARC has been severely constrained and will continue to be so until the commercial kitchen is constructed. Also, PARD has already purchased used commercial kitchen equipment at a substantial discount which can be used for this kitchen project. Currently this equipment is sitting in storage until it can be utilized.

Therefore, I have authorized the reallocation of \$600,000 for the AARC Kitchen Expansion project. The projects listed above will remain at the top of the list of priority projects as we draft our five year capital spending plan and prepare our proposed capital budget requesting additional appropriations for FY2014-15.

With an expected mid-April project start, staff anticipates construction to be complete by mid-November 2014.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (512) 974-6717.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Cora D. Wright, Assistant Director, Austin Parks and Recreation
Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Austin Parks and Recreation