Thursday, March 25, 2010

Contract and Land Management RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 20

Subject: Authorize award and execution of Amendment 3 to the professional service agreement contract with LARSON BURNS & SMITH, INC., Austin TX, to provide additional design services, construction administration and inspection services throughout the construction phase of the Northern Walnut Creek Trail, in the amount of \$416,420, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$989,783.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Chris Dry 974-9474; Nancy McAleer 974-6719; April Thedford 974-7141

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) with 22.93% MBE and 35.68% WBE participation to date.

Prior Council Action: January 31, 2002 – Council authorized the execution of a professional services agreement extension; April 10, 2008 - Council authorized award and execution of Amendment 1 to the professional service agreement contract.

The Northern Walnut Creek Trail Project is a 3.25 mile trail system that will extend from Balcones District Park to Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park. This trail way will link neighborhoods, businesses and schools by providing safe and scenic access for bicyclists and pedestrians along Walnut Creek. Ultimately, the plan is to extend the trail to the Colorado River, along Walnut Creek. This project was originally funded through federal transportation grants. Over time this grant program lost funding resulting in significant project delays. By 2009, the Texas Department of Transportation Department (TxDOT) selected this shovel-ready project for stimulus funding and is now estimated to be completed by April, 2011.

In January of 2002, City Council authorized negotiation and execution of the original professional services agreement to provide landscape, architectural design, and design services on the Northern Walnut Creek Trail Project. The purpose of these amendments are to increase the original award amount to cover necessary construction administration and inspection services, to redesign the trail to protect certain archeological findings discovered during the initial phase of design, and to address additional unanticipated environmental protection requirements.

Construction administration and inspection services for this project were originally envisioned to be performed in-house. However, limited department resources now require that these services be outsourced. Design modifications were also necessary to shift the trail alignment at MoPac and Walnut Creek to remain on City-owned land, thereby avoiding the need for additional land acquisition.