



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2617, **Agenda Item #:** 10.

8/27/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Design Workshop, Inc. (staff recommendation) or one of the other qualified responders for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP295A, to provide master planning services for the Zilker Metropolitan Park Master Plan Reissue in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 15.80% MBE and 15.80% WBE participation.]

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office

Managing Department

Parks and Recreation Department

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Purchasing Language:

Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of 15 firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>>

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Beverly Mendez, 512-974-3596, or the Project Manager, Gregory Montes, 512-974-9458.

Additional Backup Information:

Zilker Metropolitan Park is Austin's oldest metropolitan park in the city and is named after Andrew Jackson Zilker who donated parcels of land to the city starting in 1917. The park is sited at the juncture of Barton Creek and the Lady Bird Lake and comprises more than 350 acres of publicly owned land. A major era of park development took place in the 1930s through the New Deal programs such as the Civil Works Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps. Zilker Metropolitan Park was listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997, and the park includes many resources of historical, architectural, archeological, and environmental significance.

Today, the park serves as a hub for many recreational activities and includes major facilities and amenities including Barton Springs Pool, Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin Nature and Science Center, Zilker Clubhouse,

Girl Scout Lodge, Sunshine Camp, Zilker Hillside Theater, Zilker Caretaker Lodge, McBeth Recreation Center, the Butler Hike and Bike Trail and Barton Creek Trail. The park is home to large-scale events such as the Austin City Limits Music Festival, the Trail of Lights, and the Zilker Park Kite Festival.

Several environmental resources call the park home such as Eliza Spring, Old Mill (Sunken Garden), Upper Barton, and Barton Springs Pool, all of which are contributors to the Edwards Aquifer and home to the endangered Barton Springs Salamander. The park is facing several challenges such as parking, disjointed pedestrian and vehicular circulation, and environmental degradation that need to be addressed.

The Parks and Recreation Department seeks a nationally recognized master planning and design services firm with demonstrated experience and success in the development of park master plans.

The primary benefit of the planning project is to develop a visionary framework to guide the restoration, future development and programming of the park, and develop a business plan through a robust public engagement process. The project is funded by the 2012 Bond Program.

There will be no impact or interruption of any current park operations or to any park amenities. The Master Plan process will provide a Public Outreach and Engagement Plan that facilitates effective and diverse outreach strategies within the greater Austin area, and provides stakeholder/public participation throughout the planning process.

If City Council does not approve this item, Zilker Metropolitan Park will not have a guiding document or vision to help direct strategic future investments and the current challenging issues that face Zilker Park will continue to exist and will only be magnified in coming years.

This authorization provides for funding of the above listed services. This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder that Council awards. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the awarded responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may award another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with that provider.

TOP RANKED FIRM: Design Workshop is located in Austin, TX.

SECOND RANKED FIRM: Gustafson Guthrie Nichol is located in Seattle, WA.

Information on this solicitation is available through the City's Austin Finance Online website. Link: [Solicitation Documents <https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=134267>](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=134267).

Strategic Outcome(s):

Culture and Lifelong Learning; Government that Works for All.