

NOTES

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Barbara Lipscomb, City Manager *BL*

DATE: September 21, 2016

SUBJECT: Materials for Your Information

Please find attached the following materials for your information:


1. A memo from Gary Fenton, Recreation and Parks Director, providing an update on grant opportunities for Recreation and Parks

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Attachments

cc: Dave Holec, City Attorney
Carol Barwick, City Clerk

Memo

To: Barbara Lipscomb, City Manager
From: Gary Fenton, Director of Recreation and Parks 
Date: September 21, 2016
Re: Update on Grant Opportunities for Recreation and Parks

Below is an update of grants the Recreation and Parks Department is researching and applying for at this time:

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program — As a reminder, Recreation and Parks staff applied for a “50/50” *Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program* grant last spring towards \$975,000 in improvements to Greenfield Terrace Park. We became one of the two applications from North Carolina recommended to the National Park Service (NPS) for funding. There are 60 finalists nationwide, and the ORLP program has \$15,000,000 in funding.

Originally the NPS indicated that announcements would be made by September 30, 2016; however, our NPS contact has indicated that we should not expect to hear the results until “later this fall.”

NC Science Museums Grant — The NC Science Museums Grant program invests in sustaining and advancing a network of science museums across the state. Grant awards do not require a match. In collaboration with *Love a Sea Turtle*, we have submitted a request for \$60,000 (the maximum award amount) for the development of a water resource and STEAM discovery within the Stasavich Science and Nature Center at River Park North. Applications were due September 2.

Environmental Enhancements Grant (EEG) Program — Administered by Smithfield Farms and the NC Department of Justice, the purpose of the EEG is to provide funding to projects that preserve, enhance, and protect the state’s environment and natural resources. This is a reimbursement grant requiring no matching funds; however, monies must be appropriated and spent before reimbursement.

Support from third parties is looked upon favorably and the non-profit *Love a Sea Turtle*, with whom we regularly collaborate, will apply on behalf of the City for \$500,000, the maximum amount available. If received, funds will be utilized for the construction of a facility for environmental education and research initiatives “pond-side” on the city-owned acreage bordering River Park North on the west. (The facility would be similar to the “Prairie Ridge Eco-Station” at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, pictured.) Proposals for the EEG are due November 10. This item will be presented to City Council in October for consideration.



NC Connect Grant — Administered by the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) and Division of Parks and Recreation, this matching grant (1:4) targets projects of benefit to children and veterans with disabilities. GRPD plans to apply for \$100,000 towards the construction of an accessible pedal boat and kayak dock at River Park North. (The current RPN pedal boat facility is not A.D.A. accessible.)

Applications are due this December with notification likely in February/March 2017. Should the City be awarded this grant, the City will be responsible for a \$25,000 match, for a total project cost of \$125,000. Staff will make a presentation on this grant for Council consideration in October.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

cc: Merrill Flood, Assistant City Manager