

City of Los Alamitos

Agenda Report Discussion Items

May 19, 2014
Item No: 10C

To: Mayor Gerri L. Graham-Mejia & Members of the City Council

Via: Bret M. Plumlee, City Manager

From: Steven A. Mendoza, Community Development/Public Works Director
Tony Brandyberry, Public Works Superintendent

Subject: Park Maintenance Discussion

Summary: Discuss maintenance items at Labourdette Park as well as other parks within Los Alamitos. This item was continued from the April 21, 2014, meeting.

Recommendation: Receive and file, and, or provide direction to staff for 2014/2015 budget discussions.

Background

The Public Works department received a complaint of the condition of Labourdette Park on March 18, 2014. The complaint was to address a non-working drinking fountain, fencing in disarray, benches having graffiti and not bolted down, and splinters from the playground woodchips. The next day Public Works addressed these issues at the park.

- **Inoperative Drinking Fountain** - This was due to the main water main shut off to the park to allow Public Works time to repair a broken main line leak the week prior. As of the 18th, Golden State Water had not turned the waterline back on. It is now on and functioning properly.
- **Fencing Disarray** – The chain link fencing is bent, tattered, and coming loose. During the CIP Budget discussions of the 2012/2013 budget this repair was added to the 7-year CIP budget. It is scheduled for next year to replace the back and side chain link fence with a block wall with wrought iron fence to mimic the entrance wall. This project was going to be accomplished in-house to save costs.
- **Benches** – Upon inspection, only two problems were found with the benches. The first problem found was graffiti on the sitting bench next to the playground. Second, one of the two picnic benches in the rear of the Park was not properly secured down. Both of these issues have been repaired.

- **Playground Woodchips** – In rare incidents, splinters are piercing the hands of children who use this playground. At this time, as compared to the certified playground manual, the woodchips are in compliance for safety regulations. During the bi-monthly inspection, it was found to have well over the required 9-inches of woodchips to break a 10-foot fall. The level of the woodchips is also adequate for safe play.

As of 3/26/2014 all requested maintenance repairs have been completed at Labourdette Park.

Discussion

Playground Surfaces

The City of Los Alamitos has seven parks with playgrounds. Six of these parks have woodchip play surfaces, and one has a pour in place rubberized surface. The current trend is to use the rubberized surface, but the woodchip surface is adequate as well. The chart below summarizes the parks with playgrounds and the year in which the play apparatus was installed.

Park	Date of Installation	Woodchip Surface	Rubberized Surface
Orville Lewis Park	May, 1993	X	
Labourdette Park	May, 1996	X	
Roberts Park	June, 1997	X	
Sterns Park	June, 1997	X	
Soroptimist Park	April, 1999	X	
Stanbury Park	August, 2001	X	
Little Cottonwood Park	May, 2007		X

When considering replacing woodchips with rubberized play surfaces, the age and condition of the play apparatus should be examined. Removal of the rubberized surface to replace the play apparatuses can be quite expensive. Labourdette's play apparatus was installed in 1996. The condition is average for its age. There are a couple maintenance items that have been addressed this month. Replacement costs could vary from \$25,000 to \$125,000 depending on the desires of the Council.

At Labourdette Park, the playground square footage is approximately 2,800 square feet. The estimated cost for rubberized surface is \$12.00 - \$16.00 per square foot, or \$33,600 - \$44,800. The difference in price represents the additions of multiple colored surfaces. Staff is currently searching for grant opportunities.

Fortunately, matching grant funds (50%-50%) are available periodically. Staff is currently investigating the possibilities and will report back to Council with their findings.

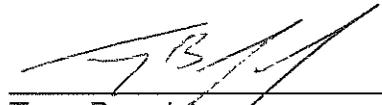
Fencing

The Seven Year CIP budget document lists the fencing at several parks to be replaced starting 2014/2015. Included in this list is the side and rear fencing of Labourdette Park. Staff's recommendation within the CIP is to remove the existing chain link and replace it with a block/wrought iron combination fence mimicking the park fencing facing Howard Avenue. Included in this project is a spring operated access gate to the alley behind the park. The desire to update park fencing is not limited to Labourdette Park. Other parks worthy of fencing upgrades are Soroptimist Park, Laurel Park, Sterns Park, and Stansbury Park.

Fiscal Impact

At this time, no additional funding is required for the maintenance items listed in the staff report. If Council desires to move forward with the funding of a playground resurface project, funding will need to be allocated from either the General Fund or Park Development Fund for fiscal year 2013/2014, or appropriated in next year's 2014/2015 CIP budget discussion.

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