

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to approve a new park amenity and to issue all documents necessary for a right of entry permit to Sowing Seeds of Change, a 501c3 nonprofit, to create an urban agriculture site at 620 San Francisco for a three year term beginning March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2024 with options for one (1) additional, three-year renewal at the discretion of the Director (District 1).

DISCUSSION

In July 2019, Council approved the Drake/Chavez expansion Strategic Plan (Vision Plan) where residents asked to see a variety of family-oriented amenities that promote physical health and well-being. Parks, Recreation and Marine and Public Works Departments were authorized to receive \$8,500,000 of funding from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program to begin the Vision Plan Implementation Project (Project).

Sowing Seeds of Change (SSC) will be part of the Project by developing and operating a community garden/urban agriculture site (the Site). The Site will enrich the lives of the community and provide adults with developmental disabilities and foster youth with job training and recreation activities. Part of a two-phased project, SSC will first obtain a right of entry permit at 620 San Francisco lot and will eventually expand to be part of the Drake/Chavez Project with a long-term lease, see (Attachment A).

As part of phase one, the Site will host "How To" trainings of how to start an urban agriculture site. The training will showcase how to install growing systems, irrigation, planters, and composting. Participants will be trained in sustainable agriculture, food preparation, and entrepreneurship. The goal of SSC programming is to provide comprehensive career and basic skills assessment, work-based hands-on-learning, independent life skills training, leisure activities, health, nutrition, and wellness education, and to connect participants to a larger network of community resources, see Attachment B. The Site is aligned with the City's Livability Initiative and will increase the amount of open space acres, consistent with the City's Open Space Element.

It is requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the new Park Amenity and authorize the right of entry permit to Sowing Seeds of Change with the following terms:

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- Authorize Use: Use of City-owned property at 620 San Francisco, for the installation of an urban agriculture site. For a full description of the equipment that will be added to the lot, see Attachment C. If at any time the Garden becomes a financial burden to the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department or falls into a state of disrepair due to lack of maintenance, this permit may become immediately revocable at the direction of the Director or his/her designee. Anything brought on site such as: recycled materials, structures, storage unit, building materials, etc., will be the responsibility of SSC and will be removed upon termination of the agreement. SSC is responsible in keeping the perimeter in good condition, debris-free, and weed-free.
- Term: At the discretion of the Director a three (3) year term beginning March 1, 2021 through September 28, 2024.
- Options for Renewal: One (1) additional, three-year renewal.
- Hours of Operations: SSC may operate Monday-Sunday from dawn to 10:00pm. Should SSC hold an event past these hours, depending on the scope of the event, SSC shall pull a separate permit through the Department Reservation's Office or the City's Special Events and Filming Office, with a request that the fees be waived.
- Termination: Either party may terminate the permit upon 60 days written notice to the other party.
- Programming: Year-round programming will include gardening and culinary classes, family cook days, eco-tourism, on-site farm to table, training in sustainable agriculture, and food preparation.
- Laws and Other Permits: SSC shall apply, pay for, and follow all applicable local, regional, state and federal laws, codes, regulations, requirements, and health orders necessary to manage and operate the Gardens.
- Improvements (Attachment B): SSC will maintain and upgrade the Garden's plots as needed, the irrigation system, and storage facility. The Site shall be confined to the size listed in this letter and outlined in the attached plans and must meet any and all City requirements.
- Operations of Maintenance, Supplies, and Security: SSC will provide at its sole cost, all necessary funding to provide for the operation, ongoing maintenance, needed supplies, and security of the Site. SSC shall be responsible for any and all repairs associated with the site. The Department shall have no maintenance obligations with respect to the premises. SSC shall keep the premises in a neat, safe and sanitary condition and maintain the Site to the Department's satisfaction.

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- Utilities: SSC, at its expense, will be solely responsible to install and maintain submeters, if possible, and be responsible for the payment of all utilities used by SSC at the Premises.
- Insurance: SSC shall indemnify the City and meet all liability and indemnification requirements of the City's Risk Manager and provide insurance certificates as required.
- Live Scan: Prior to providing volunteer or other services on the premises, SSC will Live Scan fingerprint all employees, volunteers, and contractors who provide services, maintain the Site and lead program who may encounter youth. One-day special event volunteers are excluded from this requirement.
- Nondiscrimination: Subject to applicable laws, rules and regulations, SSC shall not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of race, religion, national origin, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identify, AIDS, HIV status, handicap or disability with respect to the use of the site or the performance of its obligation under this permit.
- ADA Compliance: SSC may not discriminate against people with disabilities and may not deny full and equal enjoyment of good and services they offer. SSC shall comply with all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- Shared Parking: Parking for the Site is available and shared on the south west corner of the lot located underneath the freeway ramp, see Attachment B. SSC understands that lot parking is not exclusive any will be shared by City staff.
- Restrooms: There are no public restrooms available on site. SSC is responsible for obtaining and maintaining a portable restroom.
- Grant Approval Process: Prior to submitting a grant application, SSC will send a written notification of the grant opportunity to the Department at least two weeks prior to the grant deadline to seek written permission to apply for funding. The Department will review the request, the grant criteria, and consider other Department programming and facilities seeking funding. The City reserves the right to deny the request if the grant performance measures are not financially or operationally feasible or unreasonably burdensome for any other reason or violates City policies of obligation to fulfill grant requirements without City Council approval.
- Bi-Annual Reports: SSC shall provide bi-annual reports to the Department no later than July 31st and January 31st covering the Site accomplishments the previous six-months.
- Department Liaisons and Communication: SSC will designate a Department liaison through which SSC will communicate.

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- Publicity and Social Media: Where possible, the Department will assist SSC with the promotion and marketing of the Site activities and events. The Department and SSC will not use the other party's name, marks or logos in any advertising, promotional material, press release, publication, public announcements, or through other media, whether written or oral, without the prior written consent of the other party. Additionally, no one affiliated, staff or volunteer, with any parties in this lease will engage in negative verbal behavior or written posting towards another party on social media or other online or public venues or make negative, defamatory or inciting remarks about another party. The Department and SSC will jointly review any perceived negative behavior and/or written posting to come to a mutually agreeable resolution. If the violation cannot be resolved in an agreeable manner, then the violation may be grounds for termination of the right of entry permit. The Department reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, what is negative verbal or written posting behavior.

It is requested that the Park and Recreation Commission approve the right of entry permit for the development, beautification and maintenance of 620 San Francisco lot.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from the recommended action.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,



GLADYS KAISER
MANAGER
COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES



HURLEY OWENS
MANAGER
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

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Meredith Reynolds

MEREDITH REYNOLDS

MANAGER

PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

APPROVED:

Brent Dennis

BRENT DENNIS
DIRECTOR

BD:vd:SS:GK:MR:AC

Attachment A: Drake/Chavez Expansion Plan

Attachment B: Sowing Seeds of Change Site Plans

Attachment C: Sowing Seeds of Change Equipment