

July 16, 2020

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 execute all documents necessary to issue a Right of Entry Permit to Camp Fire Angeles, a non-profit 501c3, for the construction of Discovery Trails at DeForest Park for a period of two years from September 1, 2020 through August 30, 2022; and

Recommend to the City Manager the approval of Discovery Trails for public recreation at DeForest Park, which meets a recreational need within the City. (Council District 9).

DISCUSSION:

The DeForest Park Vision Plan (Vision Plan) serves as a visionary document to guide potential future development of DeForest Park. While the Vision Plan is a plan for future park investment, anticipated over a long-term horizon and implemented incrementally over time as resources allow, funding has been secured to begin several early action projects.

Camp Fire Angeles (Camp Fire), one of the partners of the DeForest Park Vision Plan, was awarded a \$645,286 grant by the Port of Long Beach to build a series of Discovery Trails in DeForest Park. Discovery Trails were identified in the DeForest Park Vision Plan, during which the community proposed the Discovery Trails remain open to the public during regular park hours, but will be closed for use by Camp Fire for programming purposes during specific evening classes. The Discovery Trails enhance Camp Fire programming, providing an outdoor area that is an extension of programming already provided in partnership with the Department at DeForest Park Community Center.

The Discovery Trails are proposed to be located in the northern section of DeForest Park, north of the existing Community Center building (Attachment A). Proposed trails link the north end of DeForest Park with the walking path on the east side of the Park and the proposed nature trail and dry creek on the west side of the park. Along the Discovery Trail, strategically placed lighting, mileage markers, and additional native, drought-tolerant shade-providing trees will foster a safe and unique walking experience off of the street amidst nature.

A dry creek bed with bioswales located along the eastern side of the park shall be created for stormwater management and nature play, and can extend down to the entrance of the DeForest Wetlands. Plans also include a environmental outdoor

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classroom to host supplemental educational programs. Additionally, the discovery trail will contain several gathering spaces, or small group "magic circles", that spur off of the pathway and can be programmed as a youth camping or nature education site programmed by the City's trusted community partners. These "magic circles" include seating to provide "break-out" locations for specialized hands-on demonstrations and practice by students, and other community team-building group experiences. New plantings of trees and shrubs will help meet the Port Community Grant objects of reducing air pollution and environmental sustainability, providing benefits of dynamic controlled water usage while also providing campers, walkers, and neighbors with the sense of discovery and adventure.

Camp Fire Angeles has been serving young people and their families in the greater Long Beach area since 1923-4. Camp Fire groups continue to be the oldest, continuously operating program of the Council. Camp Fire is chartered to serve Long Beach, Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos and Signal Hill and, recently has assumed jurisdiction for additional Los Angeles county cities including Carson, Compton, San Pedro, and Wilmington. Camp Fire has for many years offered a variety of programs after-school enrichment programs through community collaborations with the Long Beach Unified School District, summer day camps at Camp Shiwaka in East Long Beach, and at DeForest Park in North Long Beach, resident Camp Wintaka in the San Bernardino Mountains near Running Springs, challenge course programs that focus on individual initiative and team-building, Camp Fire volunteer-led groups and teen leadership programs.

It is anticipated that the Department will enter into a long-term lease with Camp Fire for the operation of the Discovery Trails where Camp Fire will provide free and fee-based youth camp programming and family community classes, along with public access in the northern section of DeForest Park. A proposed lease will be brought to the Commission and City Council for consideration at a later date. The new trails will ultimately become the property of the City.

Parks and Recreation Commission approval is requested to authorize the Department Director to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to the Camp Fire. The Proposed ROE shall include the following significant terms:

- Permittee: Camp Fire Angeles
- Location: DeForest Park (Attachment A)
- Use/Program: Construction of Discovery Trails
- Term: Two years, from September 1, 2020 through August 30, 2022



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- Option to Renew: One, one-year option to renew at the discretion of the Department Director
- Termination: Either party may terminate the permit upon 60 days written notice to the other party. Termination provisions will ensure Permittee shall not leave the Department with an unfinished building or site.
- Funding: All demolition, site preparation, and construction shall be provided by Permittee. Any additional funding be needed for the completion of the Discovery Trails shall be secured by the Permittee. The Department shall not provide any funding, supplies or staff support, other than review of the proposed site work, and a liaison for communication purposes, unless approved in advance and in writing by the Department Director.
- Site Preparation: Permittee shall demolish existing restroom building, remove all debris, cap any unused utilities and prepare the site for a new building structure.
- Ongoing Maintenance and Rights: Permittee will enter into lease with the Department for long-term operation of the Discovery Trails. The lease shall be completed prior to the conclusion of the ROE and the opening of the Center.
- Permits: Permittee shall pay fees and secure all demolition, grading, utility and construction permits necessary for the construction of the Discovery Trails. Copies of all permits shall be submitted to the Department prior to construction. All contractors shall be licensed, bonded and insured and must follow all City policies for prevailing wage when working on public property.
- Insurance: Permittee and its agents shall maintain all applicable insurance and endorsements, as required and approved by the City Risk Manager.

The Commission recommends to the City Manager plans for the development, beautification and maintenance of public park and recreational areas, so Commission support of the proposed improvements is requested.

FISCAL IMPACT

Camp Fires was awarded a \$645,286 grant funded by the Port of Long Beach through the Community Grants Program Parks and Open Space Grant. The Department supported Camp Fire's grant application with a letter of support. It is anticipated there



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will be a positive local job impact associated with this recommendation through the hiring of construction contractors. It is anticipated there will be some fiscal impact to the Department related to the staff time necessary to process the ROE and future lease agreement, along with project review and coordination. However, this impact is expected to be minimal.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,



GLADYS KAISER
MANAGER
COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES



HURLEY OWENS
MANAGER
MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS



MEREDITH REYNOLDS
MANAGER
PARK PLANNING & PARTNERSHIPS

APPROVED:



BRENT DENNIS
DIRECTOR

BD:SS:MR:GK:HO:vhd

Attachment A: Site Map for Discovery Trails at DeForest Park

