

23-0773 Request to reject bid from Kiefer U.S.A. for the 2023 Memorial Park Miracle League Field Resurfacing Project

Finance Committee

Mon, Jun 26, 2023, 5:30PM

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:57

The next item is 23-0773 request to reject bid from Kiefer USA for the 2023 Memorial Park Mamir—sorry, Miracle league field resurfacing project.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 05:09

Motion to approve rejecting the bid.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:11

Second.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:11

Alright, we have a motion and a second. Any comments or questions on this item? District Four? All right. Thank you. Director Gazza.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 05:21

Yes, we—thank you, Chair. We worked with our architect and an engineer. We to also talk to Kiefer. Their price was lower at the time the project was being considered. And the rubberized surfacing went through the roof, and they had come back and said that that was pretty much the reason that they were so significantly over budget than what the original estimates were. So, the Miracle League team is regrouping to determine how to proceed with moving forward with the surface. They still can play on the surface they have, but realize that maybe by next year, you know, it'll definitely need the replacement. And so, they're seeking some alternative funding sources, and then will ask the city to rebid it on their behalf and then manage the project again.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:21

All right. Alder Croatt.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 06:24

Thank you, Chair. Just a question about timing. When did we work with this consultant to come up with the original figure approximately? I'm just trying to understand how much time passed since it went from 175 to 320?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 06:39

Approximately six months, I would say we worked with them.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 06:43

Six months ago?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 06:45

Yeah. About six months ago. Yeah.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 06:46

Okay. Wow.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 06:50

Thank you, Chair. Director Gazza, did the vendor Kiefer provide any information regarding why and whether we can expect it to go back down somewhere along the line?

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:50

Alder Hartzheim.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 07:06

No, they don't expect it to go back down. We talked to them about that, because we want to work with Goodwill. He had given some options of going to a thinner, a thinner surfacing in an alternative type of pad. But long term, it wouldn't hold up as good as this one did for as many years as it did. And then going too thin.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 07:27

Another one was to resurface it, but then resurface—resurfacing over the current surface versus removing it. And then that wouldn't fix the pond—the settling in some of the areas. So, they have to pull that, do the repairs to the settling settled areas, and then put a new surface on.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 07:45

I'm quite surprised too. I said just I felt like we were—I don't know, I don't wanna say, you know, there's some escalation here beyond inflation. And upset because there's very limited companies that do this. And so, this was the only company that would willing to bid on it this time, and they reached out to a few. So, the only thing we can keep our fingers crossed that, one, more money can be raised by uh Goodwill and, two, that this number comes down. Because we love that field, and we definitely want to see it continue to be utilized for years to come, you know, and so we hope we can get there. But this was very frustrating.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 08:34

Thank you.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 08:35

Alder Croatt.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:37

Thank you, chair. Two things. I think it's great that it's funded by Goodwill, and hopefully, we can continue to work with them on finding maybe some additional funding or something. How would you describe the current condition of the field, Director Gazza, in regards to how much time do we have before we have to do something?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 08:58

Yeah, it's difficult because we went out there and there's—if it rains, you'll see ponding happening. And in that ponded areas, they're concerned about just overall safety. When somebody steps in one of those lower areas, it's not significant, but it's enough that you know, if you're walking on the ground, and you and you hit that, you would notice it. So, they're being careful to work around that. So, the surfacing isn't like peeling, or torn, or chunks of it missing or anything like that like sometimes you see in a playground where vandalism occurs. So basically, it comes down to a lot of that settling. So, I—everybody felt comfortable that another year would definitely work because one thing that was, we were working around on with scheduled too to make sure they

could continue with their season. So, we were going to do a fall install, and now we're hoping—our goal would be to do a spring install for next year, barring they can find some more funding.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:06

Alder van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:08

Thank you, Chair. My son plays there every Tuesday. So, I've seen the things that you're talking about. And it's really a shame that the price is this much because those kids, this is sometimes the only activity that they have. Gets really heavy use between June and July.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:27

I guess I'm wondering if there's anything we can do as far as upkeep of those areas, in the meantime, something that we can do to kind of mitigate what's happening out there while they try to raise the funding?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 10:43

Yeah, I'm not 100% sure if they can fill them with a surface. So, there's a—it's more of a matting that they're using where in the playgrounds, we actually use a rubber pore—they pour it. And so, I'm wondering if that can bond to something like this, but I don't know that for sure.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 11:03

I just know that if there's, if it—when water gets on that surface, it becomes extremely slick and very unsafe. And a lot of these kids have mobility issues already. You know, I'd just like to see if there's any other way that we can try to maintain the surface in the meantime. I think that'd be helpful.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:26

I believe when that surface was put in, it probably was under \$50,000.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:33

All right, any further questions? Seeing none we'll go ahead and vote. All of those in favor. Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes four to zero.