



CITY of NOVI PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

Date: September 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Fuerst Park Update

SUBMITTED BY: Tracie Ringle, Communications & Resource Development Supervisor

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In January 2008, the City of Novi issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Master Plan study of the long-term use of the property at the southeast corner of Ten Mile and Taft Roads (6.5 acres). McKenna Associates was retained by the City to conduct a comprehensive study of the property and its structures, and develop concepts and cost estimates to bring the public property into use. Citizens had the opportunity to participate in several ways, including:

- Community input meetings
- Online survey
- Survey at Civic Center
- Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission Meetings
- Contacting Department staff

On May 12, 2008, City Council approved in the FY 08-09 Budget components of the Conceptual Plan. The concept elements include:

- Relocation of the Township Hall west to the Fuerst Park
- Creation of a gateway plaza at the northwest corner of the property
- Development of pathways
- Landscaping
- Development of a small performing arts stage

Removal of Existing Structures

The north barn and house have been successfully removed from the site. The south and east barns will be removed and relocated before February 28, 2009.

Design Services

In July, 2008, an RFP was issued to retain professional design services and work with the City to further develop the approved concepts, with agreement on the elements, to be included in the site plans, construction drawings and bid documents for the initial development of Fuerst Park in Spring/Summer 2009. The multi-purpose building that was reflected in the McKenna Plan will not be a component of the park.

Hamilton Anderson Associates, Inc. (HAA) has been retained by the City for professional design services and their first task will be to create a revised conceptual plan.

Township Hall Relocation

Staff is working with HAA and the Engineering Department to determine the best location for Township Hall, with consideration to potential use and cost. As part of the relocation, Township Hall will be enhanced with a restroom addition that includes two single user restrooms and air conditioning. An RFP was posted and bids have been received for the relocation of Township Hall. An award is expected to take place at the September 22, 2008 Council Meeting.

Conceptual Plan/Community Input

City Council, Library and High School staff has been engaged in the process through small input sessions to share thoughts and expectations for the development. Utilizing the input received, HAA will create a revised conceptual plan for Fuerst Park. A draft of the conceptual plan will be shared with the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission at the September 11, 2008 meeting. This will provide an opportunity for the commission members to provide input. The plan will then be shared with City Council and discussed at the September 22, 2008 Council Meeting. Further revisions will be made to the plan and it will be made available to community members in late September/ Early October. A public input session will occur at the October 9, 2008 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission meeting, providing an opportunity for community to attend and comment.

A recommendation of a final concept plan, budget and phasing will be provided to Council at the October 20, 2008 meeting. Upon approval, a final site plan will be developed, and enter the site plan review process to include Planning Commission, ZBA, if needed. HAA will also create the construction drawings and bid documents for the development of Fuerst Park.

Construction

A recommendation for a construction contractor will be provided to Council in April and construction is targeted to begin in late April or early May. The initial development of the park is targeted to be complete in July, 2009.

A project timeline is attached.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

	1	2	Y	N
Chairman Schwarzlose				
Commissioner Dooley				
Commissioner Iszler				
Commissioner Policicchio				

	1	2	Y	N
Commissioner Staab				
Commissioner Wingfield				
Commissioner				