



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To: Bogdan Vitas, City Manager

Through: Donald Leland Craig, AICP, Planning Director

From: Donald Leland Craig, AICP, planning director

Meeting Date: February 20, 2013

RE: Indigenous Park, Bocce Ball Courts, Rest Beach and Wild Bird Center Design Task Order #1.

ACTION STATEMENT:

Approve the attached work order #1 to EDSA for \$173,690 for the completion of design, construction documents and permitting, including reimbursable expenses to enable the rehabilitation/re-use of Indigenous Park, the upgrading of the Bocce Ball Courts, upgrading of the Wild Bird Center and integration of these design efforts with improved access to Rest Beach. Authorizing the use of \$43,690 of the total fee to be drawn from Fund 101, Infrastructure Reserves.

Request: Approve the resolution directing the City Manager to sign the Task Order with EDSA

Location: The Indigenous Par area inclusive of Rest Beach and the Bocce Ball courts.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS: The City has for many years struggled with the most appropriate long term use of the Park and today it serves a variety of uses including, Wild Bird Rescue Center; storage area for the Urban Forestry Department; a major pump station for the City' drainage system; the City Bocce Ball Courts, automobile parking serving the Courts, White Street Pier and Rest Beach; and a de facto nature preserve.

Since the park was flooded several times in the severe 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, little comprehensive management of the Park resources have occurred. The County's completion of a long range Master Plan for the re-development of the immediately adjacent Higgs Beach Park together with planned improvements to the White Street Pier AIDS Memorial, recent improvements to Atlantic Boulevard and the planned terminus of the Overseas Heritage Bicycle Trail at Higgs Beach all indicate to staff the opportunity to initiate the long delayed design for the Indigenous Park and its environs. Money has been budgeted for this effort for several budget cycles, but has not been expended, pending among other things the improvement design for Atlantic Boulevard and the approval of the County's new design for Higgs Beach Park. The funding for the park design was carried over in the 2012-2013 budget at \$130,000 for the park only, but the expanded scope of the project both in area and detail together with wetland delineations and

permitting resulted in the higher professional fee. The additional funds will be adjusted from the infrastructure reserve in the amount of \$43,690.

An initial focus of the design effort will be to gather all appropriate stakeholders including surrounding property owners, the Bocce Ball Club, the County, and the state environmental agencies to understand their wishes and constraints so that design can be sensitive to their concerns.

The schedule calls for the completion of all tasks, inclusive of 240 days from start of project authorization. Depending upon availability of funds, phased construction could start in early 2014 after bidding.

Separate from the planned design effort the City has received a grant from the Toyota/National Audubon Grant Program for \$28,250 to allow the installation of a cistern and salt water well to provide water for the Wild Bird Center. This project will be complete in late Spring 2013, and will be integrated into the new park design.

In the past the park has been used for hurricane debris removal staging and with any moderate storm is affected by flood waters. The susceptibility of the park and its environs to this locational reality will be assessed in the design.

EDSA is one of the three landscape design firms under contract by the City available to assist the City in diverse design tasks. EDSA is one of the oldest, best known and innovative landscape architecture firms in the nation and state. Their park designs are award winning for beauty, sustainability and cost effectiveness. The firm views the opportunity in Key West as an opportunity to assist the City in creating a signature park to compliment the City and County efforts in this portion of the City. The team put together by EDSA has the City staff's greatest confidence in abilities.

Previous City Actions: Not applicable

Attachments:

- 1. EDSA Task Order N0. 1**
- 2. Cistern/Salt Water Well Toyota/Audubon Grant Status Report**
- 3. Description of similar projects by EDSA**

Options/Advantages/Disadvantages:

Option 1: Approve the Task Order.

- 1. Consistency with the City's Strategic Plan, Vision, and Mission: The City Strategic Plan calls for the re-vitalization of City parks and Buildings in a sustainable manner with attention to long term cost effectiveness. This proposed design effort will achieve that purpose for this under-utilized park.**
- 2. Financial Impact: The city will expend the funds for the design, construction documents, and permitting which are available now. It is**

necessary to utilize \$43,690 from infrastructure reserve to complete the design and construction documents.

Option 2: Disapprove the Task Order

1. **Consistency with the City's Strategic Plan, Vision, and Mission:** This option will delay the revitalization of the Park, with a diminishing return to the Citizens of Key West of the previous expenditures to minimally maintain the Park.
2. **Financial Impact:** This option would have no impact.

Recommendation

The Planning Department recommends **approval** of Option No. 1 directing the City Manager to execute the EDSA Task Order No. 1.