



Agenda Item No: 6

Meeting Date: April 21, 2008

## SAN RAFAEL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Department: Community Services

Prepared by: Carlene McCart /s/ CM

City Manager Approval: /s/ KN

**SUBJECT:** AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAN RAFAEL AND DONALD L. BLAYNEY & ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

**BACKGROUND:** Victor Jones Park was constructed in 1964. Located in the Glenwood Neighborhood, the 8 acre site is linear in shape and includes a small baseball field, restrooms, creek way, paved sport courts, group picnic area, playground, arbor, and restrooms. The park has steep banks that frame the creek, and segments that are wooded with native oaks. The playground is uphill and separated from the main portion of the park. Modified over the years, the last improvements made to the park were completed in 1990 when the playground was replaced and minor landscape improvements made.

The park was designated for \$17,000 of State Park Bond Act Per Capital Funds in 2001 by the City Council. The funds were to be applied to upgrades of the irrigation system. In 2006 the Glenwood Homeowners Association requested consideration of more extensive improvements. The organization offered to partner with the City, conducted a user survey and collected donations toward execution of the ultimate plan. Don Blayney, of Donald L. Blayney & Associates agreed to create a masterplan for Victor Jones Park at cost. A leadership change in the Homeowners Association delayed action until this spring.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Agreement between the City of San Rafael and Donald L. Blayney & Associates for Professional Landscape Architectural Services.

**ANALYSIS:** Victor Jones Park is a 44 year old facility in need of upgrades and updating. The Glenwood Neighborhood would like to see improvements that would render the park more useable for contemporary activities. There is desire to partner with the City to produce a program of phased projects that make the park more code compliant, user friendly, and responsive. There is benefit to working with the community to create a plan of improvements for the park that will serve as a blueprint for future projects. Irrigation improvements would be one part of that plan, but better designed and executed within a Masterplan approach.

In addition, General Plan 2020 calls for creation of Masterplans for those parks within the City lacking such plans. This endeavor would satisfy that requirement for Victor Jones Park.

The process would call for a committee of residents to work with staff, architect and representatives from the Park and Recreation Commission to create options that respond to City and neighborhood needs.

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Options will be reviewed in public meetings with the greater community. The Park and Recreation Commission will host those meetings and make a final recommendation to the City Council for adoption. The adopted Masterplan will provide opportunities to apply for grant funding, design and construct phased improvements.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** A Masterplan process will cost up to \$12,000 for professional services. An additional \$5,000 may be necessary if a site survey of the park is required. Staff recommends the \$17,000 allocated from the State Park Bond Act funds be redirected from the original irrigation improvements purpose to the funding the Masterplan.

**OPTIONS:** 1. Approve the Agreement between the City of San Rafael and Donald L. Blayney & Associates for Professional Landscape Architectural Services.  
2. Deny the Agreement and direct staff to postpone the masterplan process at this time.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Approve the Agreement Between the City of San Rafael and Donald L. Blayney & Associates for Professional Landscape Architectural Services.

Encls. 1. Agreement