



PARK, GOLF AND AQUATICS

Date: July 21, 2011

To: Delia Briones, County Clerk

From: Rosemary Neill

Re: Commissioners Court Agenda

Please place the following item on the Commissioners Court agenda for July 25, 2011.

Approve and authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for the renovation of the Ascarate Park entrance to include landscape and lighting services as well as bids for a new tollbooth and other amenities necessary to update and refresh Park elements based on design services from Sites Southwest, RBM Engineering, Inc. and the El Paso County Road and Bridge Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rosemary V. Neill", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rosemary V. Neill
Interim Director

Memorandum

To: County Judge Veronica Escobar, Commissioner Anna Perez,
Commissioner Sergio Lewis, Commissioner Willie Gandara, and
Commissioner Daniel Haggerty

From: Rosemary Neill

Date: 7/21/2011

Re: Approve and Authorize a Bid for Renovation of Ascarate Park Entrance
and other Landscaping Services

Action Item

Approve and authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for the renovation of the Ascarate Park entrance to include landscape and lighting services as well as bids for a new tollbooth and other amenities necessary to update and refresh Park elements based on design services from Sites Southwest, RBM Engineering, Inc. and the El Paso County Road and Bridge Department.

Fiscal Impact

Funds are available in CPASCPKIM07.

Background Information

On December 2007, El Paso County issued Certificates of Obligation for constructing, improving, renovating, and equipping Ascarate Park and other County facilities.

In its Capital Improvement Plan FY 2007-2008 Park, Golf and Aquatics staff proposed specific projects to improve facility appearance, functionality or to correct serious deficiencies at the park. Included among these projects was the revitalization of the entrance to Ascarate Park.

The scope of work includes a new design for the entry landscape, new entrance signage, new landscaping near the golf course clubhouse, sign design for the

new traffic-calming circle at the park's entrance and a new fence design for the golf clubhouse entrance to enhance visual aesthetics and security.

Sites Southwest, in accordance with RFP 08-160, prepared the landscaping design work. Staff added the lighting design work to the RBM Engineering, Inc. contract. RBM is updating the lighting along the walking trail. Adding this project element to RBM's contract ensured lighting continuity for both projects.

The Park entrance has remained untouched for years. As part of the overall investment into the Park, staff recommended an upgrading to the entrance along with other park enhancements.

This upgrading allows staff to address several issues. It also allows the County to display a fresh image to the park at its entrance. New landscaping will be drought resistant and easier to maintain. Design work takes into consideration drainage to eliminate water ponding areas and minor flooding issues.

A new tollbooth will replace the current structure. The new facility will have a restroom connected to water and wastewater service. The new booth will be handicapped accessible with two stations to collect fees during peak entry periods. This allows staff to eliminate the rental of a portable restroom for staff.

Road and Bridge engineers have designed a traffic-calming circle. This design will enable traffic to flow into and around to various roadways within the park. New signage and lighting will help direct traffic entering the park.

This new look will build on existing elements such as rock walls and wrought iron fences. Staff requests that the design work preserve any unique Park features so that the Park's history is preserved.