

**STAFF REPORT****City Council**

Meeting Date: 4/14/2020
Staff Report Number: 20-077-CC

Informational Item: Update on Belle Haven community center and library

Recommendation

The purpose of this information item is to provide the City Council and members of the public a brief update on the Belle Haven community center and library project.

Policy Issues

As an information item, there are no policy issues. Staff will identify any applicable policy issues for the City Council consideration as part of any action items related to the project.

Background

In October 2019, Facebook announced its intent to collaborate with the community and the City to build a new multigenerational community center and library on the site of the current Onetta Harris Community Center (OHCC,) Menlo Park Senior Center and Belle Haven Youth Center located at 100-110 Terminal Avenue. On December 10, 2019, staff provided an informational item staff report to provide an update to City Council while awaiting a written offer. In addition, the City Council appointed City Councilmembers Carlton and Taylor to an ad hoc subcommittee on this project. On December 16, 2019, Facebook submitted its offer for the City Council's consideration.

On January 28, the City Council approved a resolution of intent to collaborate with Facebook and accept the offer. On February 11, City Council conducted a study session to discuss current service levels and directed staff regarding changes to the preliminary recommendations. On February 25, City Council approved the interim service levels, appropriated \$1 million for interim services, waived purchasing requirements and expressed a willingness to convene special City Council meetings with 24-hour noticing related to any potential contracts in excess of the city manager's spending authority of \$75,000.

On March 10, the City Council initiated the process to abandon public utilities easements and a portion of Terminal Avenue currently occupied by Kelly Park, the Menlo Park Senior Center and the Belle Haven Pool. The next steps in the abandonment process involve review by the Planning Commission May 18 and City Council June 23.

Information related to the project is available on the City-maintained webpage (Attachment A).

Analysis

This staff report serves as an update on the project in the context of the COVID-19 emergency and a preview of the April 21 agenda topic on this project.

The Planning Commission was scheduled to hold a study session on the project March 23. In light of the various city, county and state orders in place by the middle of March, staff and Facebook decided it was best to postpone the study session item. Staff and the Facebook team have been able to continue working on technical aspects of the project in anticipation of being able to reschedule the Planning Commission study session, perhaps in May.

Staff has met with the City Council subcommittee to keep them apprised of the project's progress and will be reporting out to the full City Council April 21 on topics such as:

- Facebook's continued commitment to the project and community
- City contributions to the overall project budget
- Project schedule, steps and timeline
- Update on plans for interim services during construction
- Opportunities for community outreach and public engagement

Public Notice

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Attachments

- A. Hyperlink – project page: menlopark.org/bellehaven

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