

Memorandum

TO: City Council

FROM: Steve Benoit , Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: March 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Approve St. Croix Recreation's proposal to design and install a playground at Bobby Theisen Park.

**ITEM
NUMBER:** 10.c

SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

To approve St. Croix Recreation's proposal to design and install a playground at Bobby Theisen Park in the amount of \$350,000.

INTRODUCTION

The city council is being asked to approve St. Croix Recreation's proposal to design and install a playground at Bobby Theisen Park in the amount of \$350,000.

DISCUSSION

As part of the Bobby Theisen Park redevelopment, the city's 2025 capital improvement program includes a project for the design and installation of a new playground. Bobby Theisen Park has not had a playground in the past. Feedback received during the master park system plan public engage process showed that the community has a strong desire for a playground to be located at Bobby Theisen Park. Through the design process it was determined to place the playground between the new park building and the tennis/basketball courts.

A request for proposals (RFP) was sent out on Thursday, January 30 to solicit consultant firms to design and install the playground. Within the RFP, firms were instructed to follow the following criteria:

- Project budget of \$350,000.
- Work collaboratively with the city, architect, and project construction company.
- Take creative advantage of the natural slope of the in the project area.
- Can use a combination of poured in place (PIP) and wood fiber material. High use areas must utilize PIP. Encouraged to use designs incorporating a high percentage of PIP.
- Serve ages 2-12.
- Be composed of low maintenance materials.
- Incorporate features that address inclusivity.
- Consultant must be a member of Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing and/or the State Contract.

Firms were allowed to submit up to three designs. Three firms submitted proposals including:

- St. Croix Recreation – one design
- Flagship Recreation – one design
- Webber Recreation – three designs

Once the proposals were received, staff then began the public engagement process to solicit community feedback on the designs. Community feedback was acquired through several methods including an online survey and an open house. These methods were advertised through Facebook, the city website, and our e-newsletter. In addition, a postcard was mailed to the residents around Bobby Theisen Park.

The on-line survey received total of 229 responses. Of those the majority were for the St. Croix Recreation design with 110 votes. The next closest design had 62 votes.

The open house was held at the community center on Saturday, March 1 from 2-4 pm. 33 people attended. Of those 27 voted for the St. Croix Recreation design.

The parks and recreation commission reviewed the designs at the February 24 meeting. While the commission felt each design has unique merits, the majority of the members felt that the St. Croix Recreation was the preferred design.

Staff along with the Bobby Theisen park redevelopment project architect, (LHB Inc,) also reviewed the designs and felt the St. Croix design will best serve the community.

Based on all the combined feedback staff is recommending the St. Croix Recreation design. The amount budgeted for the Bobby Theisen playground is \$350,000 and is also the amount St. Croix Recreation's quote. The playground will be funded from the community investment fund. Staff has worked with St. Croix Recreation on other projects and has had positive experiences. St. Croix Recreation is a member of the State Contract (number 218090).

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing information, it is recommended that the city council approve St. Croix Recreation's proposal to design and install a playground at Bobby Theisen Park in the amount of \$350,000.

ATTACHMENTS

[Flagship-Landscape Proposal.pdf](#)
[St. Croix Recreation-Burke Proposal.pdf](#)
[St. Croix Recreation-Burke Rendering 1.jpg](#)
[Webber-Miracle Option 1 Proposal.pdf](#)
[Webber-Miracle Option 1 Rendering.pdf](#)
[Webber-Miracle Option 2 Proposal.pdf](#)
[Webber-Miracle Option 2 Rendering.pdf](#)
[Webber-Miracle Option 3 Proposal.pdf](#)
[Webber-Miracle Option 3 Rendering.pdf](#)
[Flagship-Landscape Rendering.jpg](#)