



MEMORANDUM

City of Venice

Engineering Department

TO: Edward Lavalley, City Manager

FROM: Kathleen Weeden, City Engineer

DATE: January 27, 2020

COUNCIL APPROVAL: Yes

MEETING DATE: February 11, 2020

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: Upgrade and Maintain City Infrastructure and Facilities

SUBJECT: Execute Locally Funded Agreement for Park Impact Fees – ADA Mobility Mats at Beach Parks

The attached Locally Funded Agreement for Park Impact Fees to Install Mobility Mats at Beach Parks was original presented at the December 10, 2019, City Council Meeting. The following information is provided as requested along with the attached pictures:

Maintenance/Installation Review:

James Clinch, Public Works Director, provided the following summary related to the demo and maintenance:

- AccessRec demonstration was help on 1.23.20 at Venice Beach, with both City and County staff.
- AccessRec Mats do seem to be a more durable and easier to use product than the MobiMats.
- We do prefer the AccessMat product over the AccessDeck for use on the beach. It is much lighter and has less joints which could lead to settlement and tripping hazards.
- The addition of an AccessDeck pull-off area, as you suggested, may be a good way to simply test the product on our beaches. The pull-off can always be removed if it becomes a maintenance issue.
- There is a 3 Year warranty and approximately 5 Year life-span on the AccessMat
- Maintenance Requirements: Volunteers could feasibly perform the Daily maintenance – however, Weekly, Monthly and Storm Events would need to be performed by City staff. For one mat location this would not need to be an entire position, however for three

locations and without daily volunteer assistance this would require additional City Park staff.

- Daily: Blowing off or sweeping of the mat (volunteers).
- Weekly: Inspection of mat for proper installation, check for settlement and correct as needed.
- Monthly: Pull up end, beginning and joints to rake sand smooth. Fix any other settlement issues.
- Storm Events: Disassemble connections, rollup and remove mat. Reinstall connections and mat after the storm event.

Liability:

Concerns related to liability were forwarded to Ray Carter, Risk Management Consultant at Gehring Group as he stated as follows:

“Initially, even though claims have surely arisen from their use, I have not seen claims related to Moby mats during my experience, however I can offer you the following that will assist in defense of any that may arise:

1. Ensure that the mats are installed per the manufactures guidelines, preferably through the manufacture and/or with/while a company representative is present. Similar to how we would typically design and install playground equipment.
2. Ensure that maintenance is performed in accordance with the manufactures recommendations.
3. Ensure that the city develop, perhaps with the manufacture’s assistance, a regular inspection program of the mat and document same. This could be tied to maintenance personnel that are performing daily duties in areas served by the mats; Trash pick-up, Beach raking if performed, etc.

These general guidelines would also serve the city well with the mobile ‘carts’ that have been part of the discussion.

So to answer your question on additional liability? No it will not create any unforeseen additional liability for the city to install these mats if the mats are installed and maintained pursuant to manufactures recommendations.”

Funding Agreement Language Revision:

The Funding Agreement has been revised to ADA Mobility Mats.

Summary:

Based on requests from the public to improve accessibility to the open sandy beach, City Council included in the FY2021 Adopted Budget the use of Sarasota County Park Impact Fees to accomplish this goal. These ADA mobility mats facilitate access past the installed boardwalk ramps. The first mobility mat will be installed at Venice Beach. Prior to installation, execution of the funding agreement by the Sarasota County Board of County Commission will be required along with a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Coastal Permit. Public Works staff will also be coordinating with the volunteer group that has agreed to conduct maintenance of the mobility mats to keep them in safe operation and cleared of sand. Following installation of the first mobility mat, staff will evaluate the feasibility of adding additional mats with only volunteer maintenance and notify City Council if additional city staff will be needed at Venice Beach or other locations. Secondary locations planned are Service Club Park and North Pier Parking Area if the costs do not exceed that allocated \$50,000 in Park Impact Fees.

Requested Action: Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Locally Funded Agreement for Use of Park Impact Fees Between Sarasota County, Florida and the City of Venice for ADA Mobility Mats at Beach Parks.

If for an agenda item, this document and any associated backup created by City of Venice staff has been reviewed for ADA compliance: Yes

City Attorney Review/Approved: Yes

Risk Management Review: Yes

Finance Department Review/Approved: Yes

Funds Availability (account number): Sarasota County Park Impact Fees

ORIGINAL(S) ATTACHED: Three (3) Originals provided to the City Clerk's Office.

Cc: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Access Mat – Installation Photos





Access Deck

