



# MEMORANDUM

## City of Venice

### Public Works Department

TO: Ed Lavallee, City Manager

FROM: James R. Clinch PE, Director of Public Works and Asset Management

DATE: February 12, 2020

COUNCIL APPROVAL: Yes

MEETING DATE: February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly

SUBJECT: City of Venice Park Impact Fee Projects

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#### **Background:**

The City's Park Impact Fees are managed by Sarasota County and must be included annually within the County budgeting process. The County recently changed their budget process deadlines, to require these impact fee requests earlier in the year than our City CIP process. They have extended their deadline to allow for Council action on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

City staff has updated the attached Park Impact Fee Worksheets based on Council input received at the January 30<sup>th</sup> Parks Special Meeting. There are now two (2) projects with funding scheduled for FY21, the NE Venice Park & Venezia Park projects. The dog park project at Legacy Park has been removed and the remaining projects are planned for future budget years and will not affect the FY21 budget process.

#### **NE Venice Park Project:**

Staff recognizes and appreciates the community's desire for additional public park space in the NE quadrant of the City. This area of the City is growing rapidly and was not master planned to include designated public park space. Consequently, there is a noticeable absence of City public park space between Pinebrook Park, to the west and Myakka River Park, to the east. It is important to note that there are many private amenities located within the individual planned unit developments in this area, however these are not available to the general public and the amenity types vary greatly between the different neighborhoods. A public park in this area would offer a place for the Venice community to interact and would be available to all City park users. This park should focus on adding amenities which complement the existing private developments, based on needs identified during the community input process. The first step in this new park project is to conduct the community workshops, site feasibility and site selection process.

Staff would recommend considering existing City owned land first, as this would represent a significant cost and time savings for the project. We have attached a summary of the existing potential properties for reference. Purchasing new property for park use is an impact fee eligible expense and should also be considered. The process for creating a new park in the NE Venice Area would follow the project phasing sequence below:

- 1) Community Workshop, Site Feasibility & Site Selection
- 2) Property Due Diligence and Purchase (if purchasing new property)
- 3) Project Design and Permitting
- 4) Project Construction
- 5) Park Operation & Maintenance

Staff proposes allocating \$25,000 within the FY21 Parks budget to perform the community workshop, site feasibility and site selection process; and allocating \$100,000 in Park Impact Fees in FY21 for a property purchase, as needed. The County will authorize additional Park Impact Fees for purchase, once the site location has been finalized and the concept plan is developed for the project. The County will not support allocating additional Park Impact Fees until a specific site has been selected.

After the site selection process is complete, the City may request out of cycle impact fees or utilize impact fee reimbursement for a specific property purchase. There also may be grant funding opportunities for the purchase and development of new park property, which will be coordinated with the City's Grants Administrator.

### **Venezia Park Project:**

Based on initial community feedback and Council input, the proposed FY21 funding for Venezia Park has been reduced to \$150,000. This amount would allow for passive amenities only, the details of which would be determined after the community input phase. The passive amenities could include, an ADA accessible walking path, pedestrian crosswalks, benches, etc. If additional amenities are desired by the public, that funding would need to be allocated in future budget years.

The Lion's Club proposal for a universally inclusive playground was well received by both the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and City Council. Staff will continue to work with the Lion's Club to develop this proposal and to review alternative park locations which may be more suitable for this unique park amenity. To address the playground equipment which was removed at Venezia Park, Staff would recommend proceeding with replacement of the existing playground structure with a similar structure, using the current available funding of \$75,000.

**Requested Action:** Approve Park Impact Fee Project 5-year CIP Schedule

**City Attorney Review/Approved:** N/A

**Risk Management Review:** N/A

**Finance Department Review/Approved:** Yes

**Funds Availability (account number):** N/A

**ORIGINAL(S) ATTACHED:** Summary of Existing Property & Project Worksheets

**Cc:** Rick Simpson, Assistant Director of Public Works and Asset Management