

`CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION (RCA)

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
AGENDA DATE: September 30, 2008
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Nanette Smejkal, (915) 541-4331
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: 1

SUBJECT:

Discussion and direction to the City Manager on the use of City of El Paso park property for the purpose of constructing, operating and utilizing recreation and sports facilities in an unimproved area of Lower Tom Lea Park.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Staff is seeking City Council direction on future negotiations for a lease agreement and/or interlocal agreement for an unimproved area of Lower Tom Lea Park.

The property is located adjacent to Brown Street and Schuster Avenue consisting of all of blocks 104, 105, and 136, Alexander Addition, and a portion of blocks 68, 69, 99, 106, 107, 135, 137, 138, 139, 142, 143, and 174, and a portion of Ange Street, Octavia Street, Price Street, Noble Street, Daggett Street, Wade Street, University Avenue, Blanchard Avenue, Hague Avenue, and Rim Road rights-of-way (vacated), Alexander Addition, El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

Council has previously approved two Lease Agreements between the City and the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association ("EPBYAA") for the construction and utilization of a youth baseball and softball facility in the park area known as Lower Tom Lea Park. To date, EPBYAA has not been able to fulfill its obligations within the stated timelines. The El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) has expressed an interest in the site and a lease agreement. Another option is the City to fund and develop the park expansion sometime in the future, either through Certificates of Obligation or as one of numerous projects considered through a General Obligation Bond election.

The Parks and Recreation Department supports seeking an agreement with an organization that can fund the construction of recreational and sports amenities at the site, provided there is the opportunity for public use and that the contemplated facilities and operations are complimentary to the existing improvements.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

September 30, 2008 (Resolution), June 19, 2007 (Ordinance 016674); September 30, 2003 (Ordinance 015568); April 29, 2003 (Resolution)

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

To be determined. In the prior lease agreements, the City was not providing any funding for the construction and/or operation of the facilities contemplated by the lease.

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____

(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____

DATE: _____