RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve a Resolution (Attachment B) authorizing staff to pursue a grant application, for a total amount not to exceed $8,500,000, with the California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP); and

2. Authorize the Assistant City Manager to execute the necessary grant documents and appropriate the grant amount into the Parks and Recreation Department’s budget upon grant award.

DISCUSSION

Background
The City of San Luis Obispo (City) park system includes a diverse mix of some 28 parks and recreation facilities covering approximately 206 acres. The City’s parks include a broad range of recreational features and there are various park and facility improvements, or enhancements scheduled in the City’s 2019-21 Capital Improvements Program. This includes design for a new neighborhood park on North Broad Street.

At this time, grant opportunities are available that can augment City funds for the purposes of developing and revitalizing City parks. The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) is the largest park related grant program in California’s history, with over $1 billion in funding between the 2018 Prop. 68 and 2006 Prop. 84 Bond Acts. The SPP helps communities invest in parks, increasing recreational opportunities. Examples include aquatic centers, athletic fields, community gardens, outdoor gym equipment, public art, amphitheaters, etc. The competitive grant program was made possible through the passage of Proposition 68: California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, the state’s largest investment in grant funding history targeted for underserved communities in California.
The bond also provides funds for aging infrastructure, amenities and improvements to parks that will help attract new and diverse visitors. Since 1965, the grants administered by OGALS have created and improved over 7,400 parks. Staff has determined that an awarded grant would provide funding for the Emerson Neighborhood Park Revitalization Project. This park location is most closely aligned with the goals and objectives and qualification requirements of this grant opportunity. In the FY 19-21 Financial Plan, budget was appropriated for the replacement of Exercise Equipment at Emerson Park, however the project was deferred and unappropriated by Council at the June 2020 Budget Supplement Council Meeting. Staff will include the Emerson Park Revitalization Project in the next Financial Plan’s Capital Improvement Plan for FY 21-23 with the notation that the project will only be viable if granted award monies.

City staff is requesting authorization to apply for grant funding from SPP in order to augment current funding set aside for City parks and facilities. Staff submitted a grant application in 2019 for the third round of funding available through SPP for the Emerson Neighborhood Park Revitalization Project and did not receive the grant monies. The deadline for the fourth and final round of funding is December 14, 2020 and an additional $395.3 million is available under Round 4. One of the required attachments in the SSP Grant Application (Attachment A) is to provide a signed resolution (Attachment B) from the local jurisdiction’s governing body, to authorize the submittal of the application to OGALS.

Policy Context
The City’s Financial Management Manual, Section 740, requires City Council authorization to submit grant applications in excess of $5,000. In particular, section 3(d) states:

*For grants in excess of $5,000, prepare a Council Agenda Report requesting authorization to seek grant funding. This report should describe the grant program’s conformance with this policy, including the results of the cost/benefit analysis.*

Staff finds that submittal of grant applications for City parks and recreational facilities meets the City’s Grant Management Policy, outlined in Section 740, as there is an opportunity to significantly leverage City funds on balance with only modest staff and consultant time required to prepare the grant application; the proposed grant applications would result in additional priority work efforts being implemented; and, all grant administration, tracking, and reporting will be conducted in accordance with applicable City policy and any requirements specified in an awarded grant contract.

Public Engagement
As this is authorization to apply for grant funding, no public engagement is required. However, the project site plan was developed from key takeaways from the public engagement surrounding the many public workshops surrounding the current work effort underway on the update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. If awarded the grant final design work would include continued public and neighborhood engagement.
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

There is no environmental review required for grant submittals. Any grant funding received for specific projects will undergo the mandatory environmental review as is required through CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: Yes  
Funding Identified: Yes  
Budget Year: 2020-2021

Fiscal Analysis:

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<tr>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
<th>Current FY Cost</th>
<th>Annualized On-going Cost</th>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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* Project/service will be completed through budgeted in-house resources

The City’s Parks and Recreation Department has time allocated within its normal work program to prepare and submit the grant application. If successful, these grant monies will significantly leverage and augment the City’s funds budgeted for the City’s parks and facilities.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The City Council could request additional information or analysis from staff.
2. The City Council could deny the request to submit a grant application.

Attachments:

a - COUNCIL READING FILE - SPP Round 4 Application Guide
b - Draft Resolution
RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2020 SERIES)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBIPO, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State of California; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of San Luis Obispo hereby:

SECTION 1. Approves the filing of an application for the Emerson Neighborhood Park Revitalization Project; and

SECTION 2. Certifies that said City of San Luis Obispo has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project; and

SECTION 3. Certifies that if the project is awarded, the City of San Luis Obispo has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and

SECTION 4. Certifies that the City of San Luis Obispo has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and

SECTION 5. Delegates the authority to the Assistant City Manager of Community Services to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and

SECTION 6. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

Upon motion of Council Member ____________, seconded by Council Member ________________, and on the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

The foregoing resolution was adopted this _____ day of _____________________ 2020.

Mayor Heidi Harmon

ATTEST:

______________________________
Teresa Purrington
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

______________________________
J. Christine Dietrick
City Attorney

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, on ____________________.

______________________________
Teresa Purrington
City Clerk
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