



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 2012

TO: Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Terry Smith, Assistant Director
Glenn Kost, Planning Manager

SUBJECT: Bellevue Downtown Rotary Partnership Project
(Board action requested)

At the Tuesday, February 14, 2012 Parks & Community Services Board meeting Robert Rose, incoming president of the Downtown Bellevue Rotary, along with staff will provide information regarding a proposed project and partnership to create an accessible, interactive, age-friendly play area for people with and without disabilities within the current playground area at the Downtown Park.

General Project Proposal:

The Bellevue Downtown Rotary is interested in funding a project to commemorate 50 years as a club. The City was contacted by incoming president Robert Rose about the opportunity to develop an accessible playground in the Downtown Park. Mr. Rose is developing ideas for project that will be approved by the Rotary.

Parks staff met with Mr. Rose on several occasions to discuss his proposal and alternatives. This included a meeting/walk-through of the Downtown Park with Terry Smith and Glenn Kost. The current primary proposal includes:

1. Development/expansion of the current playground area. Would include/expand elements that provide greater interaction (play) opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities.
2. Providing additional space within the park that enhances park experiences for individuals with disabilities (and without). Examples that Mr. Rose provided include a fragrance garden, meditation garden with wind chimes, interactive pathways for blind park users, interactive art that provides opportunities for experiences textures, shapes, surfaces.

Staff views this project and the City's role as comparable to the Crossroads Spray Park Project we completed a couple years ago with the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary. For this \$1.3 million project the City lead and funded the design and soft costs (\$300,000). The Bellevue Breakfast Rotary

contributed \$250,000, and the City/Rotary mutually assisted each other in leveraging an additional \$750,000 in grants and donations.

For this Bellevue Downtown Rotary project we (City) would participate in renovating portions of the existing playground, as part of our normal operations. We support the redesign/redevelopment of the current playground area as an accessible/interactive playground for kids and adults with and without disabilities.