



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting February 11, 2025

DATE: January 14, 2024
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Robert Dodd, Director of Parks & Recreation
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Agreement for the Acceptance of Art for Hans & Pat Suter Park

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing execution of an agreement with the South Texas Alliance of Indigenous People (STAIP), a Texas non-profit corporation, for the construction, donation, and acceptance of improvements and artwork commemorating the Native Americans in Corpus Christi to be placed at the Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge.

SUMMARY:

STAIP is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the culture and traditions of Native American tribes and other indigenous groups in South Texas. STAIP propose to commission professional services in designing, constructing, finishing, transporting, and installing a sculpture and numerous shade structures, commemorating Native Americans in Corpus Christi. The term of the agreement shall be for five years and commence upon final approval by the Mayor and City Council.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge, located at 6001 Ennis Joslin Road, is a well-known park for observing and exploring the diverse, coastal ecosystem of the Oso Bay. The Refuge serves as an important resource for tourism, education, and recreation. The Park is also a significant archeological site as the second largest Indian Burial Ground in Texas. The vision for this project is to utilize the park's natural setting and be an inclusive space to increase public awareness of indigenous culture; offer unique recreational experiences.

The scope of the project includes a total of eight features (Art & Structures):

- One Bronze Statue of a Native American Man
- One Gathering Circle (30 feet in diameter) with partial rafter shading & laser cut panels
- Five smaller circles with partial rafter shading & laser cut panels (10 feet in diameter)
- One Entrance sign

Each circle structure will also include recycled, plastic benches installed in a cement base. The laser cut panels, made of Corten steel, serve as structure walls which support the rafter shading.

The statue will be slightly larger than life-size and will rest on a low pedestal of rocks/plants. STAIP shall prepare, at its own expense, an identification label indicating STAIP's name, the artist's name, the artwork's title, and year of completion; this identification label will be placed near or adjacent to the artwork when publicly displayed.

For each circle structure, the panels will be used as an educational function with informational topics such as Native American practices/ceremonies, spiritual sayings, indigenous animals/birds, Oso Bay waterscapes and donor information. The circle structures will provide shade and seating to serve as an opportunity of reflection or to hold ceremonies. STAIP proposes to place the art and structures at the south end of the Park which will surround an existing parking lot and a paved path known as "Walk to Medicine Wheel".

STAIP shall perform all installation work and services as an independent contractor and not as an agent, representative, or employee of the City. STAIP is contractually responsible for all payments for the art/structures, including construction, installation, and repair/maintenance. STAIP shall provide plans/specifications for installation and comply with all applicable City codes. The City has no obligation for the construction or installation of the art and structures. STAIP will gift the Structures to the City upon completion and ensure that the design of the art/structures are warranted to last for at least 20 years.

This project proposal was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on September 11, 2024 for their input and recommendation. Comments and discussion were favorable, notably for STAIP's responsibility for construction and maintenance. The Committee unanimously passed a motion supporting the agreement.

ALTERNATIVES: The Mayor and City Council may choose to disapprove the agreement or propose a reduction in the scope of work.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact with the construction or installation. STAIP has five years to complete construction and installation. City fiscal impact begins upon acceptance of the donation once construction and installation are complete. Once accepted, annual maintenance costs are expected to be no more than \$20,000.00 annually in the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend approval of this motion authorizing the execution of an agreement for the construction, donation, and acceptance of improvements and artwork commemorating the Native Americans in Corpus Christi to be placed at the Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Rescue.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Agreement
Presentation