



**PARKS &
RECREATION**

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Seguin Mayor and Council
Steve Parker, City Manager

From: Jack Jones, Director of Parks & Recreation

Through: Rick Cortes, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Resolution of the City Council of the City of Seguin, Texas authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with Play & Park Structures of Southern Texas regarding the BuyBoard quote in the amount of \$644,093.96 for the purchase and installation of an inclusive playground at Max Starcke Park East; and declaring an effective date.

Date: November 7, 2023

City staff demolished the old wooden playscape publicly known as the Kids Kingdom Playscape located in Max Starcke Park East the week of February 13 that was built in 1995. Both our new Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) and Risk Manager agreed that the playscape needed to be closed and removed for public safety reasons. Unfortunately, there was no salvaging a 28-year-old wooden playscape.

At the City Council meeting on February 21, 2023, City Council was informed by the City Manager that \$300,000 in Park Development Funds, originally earmarked to purchase new parkland north of Interstate 10 for a new community park, could be redirected to replace the playscape given the public's desire for a replacement. The City Manager commented that the City is working with land developers and exploring opportunities for a Public Improvement District (PID) north of Interstate 10 whereby there would be no cost for public parkland or park development. At that meeting, the Mayor and City Council requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board come up with a plan for replacement with the caveat that the new playscape must be inclusive for all to enjoy.

At the Parks Board meeting on March 6 and April 3, 2023, Recreation Consultant Jeff Mankins with Play & Park Structures of Southern Texas assisted with Board discussion regarding ideas for a new playscape. Mr. Mankins designed the current playscape that is located next to the site of the old wooden playscape in Max Starke Park East while working for another playscape company. Mr. Mankins has been involved in other projects where an old playscape was removed and a new one was needed to take its place. In addition, Mr. Mankins was involved a couple of years ago with adding new playscapes at all Seguin ISD elementary school campuses, along with the new playscape that was installed recently at Bauer Park.

On October 2, 2023, Mr. Mankins presented the Parks Board with two playscape options. The two options presented ranged in price from about \$600,000 to \$650,000. The option recommended for City Council consideration had more inclusive play elements, such as the Temple Trolley that was designed in collaboration with Dr. Temple Grandin, to make this design option unique to this part of Texas. The Temple Trolley requires a large footprint and includes two diverse types of seats for inclusion and the seats spin 360 degrees. In the design were specific play pieces related to the Perk Your Park grant requirements in addition to several other play pieces such as a climber that was designed about a year ago that is considered inclusive. There are several pecan trees that will remain to offer shade for the playscape. Colors used on the existing playscape were incorporated in reverse schematics to connect the existing playscape to the new proposed playscape.

On October 26, 2023, it was announced that the City of Seguin was awarded a \$75,000 grant garnering the most support for the Niagara Perk Your Park competition. This brings total funding available for the project to \$375,000. Staff is requesting a Budget Amendment in the next Agenda Item in the amount of \$300,000 from the Park Development Fund to purchase the new playscape. This would leave approximately \$30,000 in project contingency, if needed.

The BuyBoard is a Local Government Purchasing Cooperative administered by the Texas Association of School Boards in Austin, Texas. City purchases utilizing the BuyBoard are in compliance with all State bidding requirements.

City staff recommends approval of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Seguin, Texas authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with Play & Park Structures of Southern Texas regarding the BuyBoard quote in the amount of \$644,093.96 for the purchase and installation of an inclusive playground at Max Starcke Park East; and declaring an effective date.