



**NAPLES CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Regular Meeting Date: August 21, 2013**

Agenda Section: Regular	Prepared By: David M. Lykins, Director Department: Community Services
Agenda Item: 18	Legislative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quasi-Judicial <input type="checkbox"/>

**SUBJECT:**

Discussion of the design process for a new City of Naples park along the Gordon River.

**SUMMARY:**

City Council is requested to endorse a proposed design process and schedule for the new park along the Gordon River.

**BACKGROUND:**

City Council’s recent acquisition of the 6.7 acre south Pulling Property, combined with the 8.5 acres of land previously owned by the City will create a new 15.2 acre City park along the Gordon River.

Recognizing that City Council appropriated \$2.5 million in this fiscal year to develop the new “Gordon River” park, staff developed a strategy and timeline for the development of a master plan for the new facility that may be acceptable to City Council. It is staff’s belief that this first step is essential prior to the development of the new park.

The City received an unsolicited offer from local architect Matthew Kragh, offering the services of his firm, MKH Architecture and Planning, to develop a park master plan concept (with phased improvements), including the plans and specifications for the first phase of the park development, without cost to the City. Staff believes Mr. Kragh has both the professional ability and the desire to serve his community through the voluntary contributions of his time and energy. Mr. Kragh confirmed he will reach out to local associates for professional services that may best be performed by others.

The pro bono offer from Mr. Kragh is appreciated and is an option worthy of continued consideration. An additional request was made to staff for reaching out to nationally renowned waterfront urban park planners or designers who may wish to participate with this project.

To accomplish this task, staff prepared a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), including a scope of services for a park design consultant. The RFQ, #047-13, was published on Sunday, July 21, 2013 with submittals due by 2:00 pm on August 22, 2013.

The publication and release of the RFQ was essential in order to meet an abbreviated timeline intended to produce a final Master Plan for City Council consideration and adoption on March 5, 2014. Numerous stakeholders, advisory boards and committees, President’s Council, user groups, and meetings for citizen input are necessary in order for a consultant to collect information and complete a master plan desired and supported by residents and the City Council.

The Scope of Services and timeline is attached for information and City Council consideration.