



INTER-OFFICE MEMO



TO: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

FROM: Sherman Conrad, Director, Parks & Recreation *SC*

Re: REQUEST FOR FY 2021-2022 ADDITIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING - BOTANICAL GARDENS SECURITY FENCING

DATE: July 25, 2022

BACKGROUND

On Monday, January 24, 2022, staff requested and received approval from you to accelerate the perimeter fencing at the Botanical Gardens that was identified as a Capital Improvement Project (301CIP) in FY 2022-2023. Please see attached approval memo.

On Monday, March 7, 2022, staff requested reallocation of CIP funds in FY 2021-2022 to cover the approved fencing project at the Botanical Gardens, estimated at \$120,000. Please see attached approval memo.

Staff worked with the Procurement Management Department to create E-Bid #-20220068-0-2022/MF. On May 25, 2022, this project was broadcast to the public and closed on June 29, 2022. After reviewing the two contractors that submitted their sealed bids, only one contractor was qualified as being responsive. The responsive bidder came in at \$284,200.

CURRENT ACTION

Per the approval memo dating March 7, 2022, funding was approved for this project at \$120,000 from the Capital Improvement Projects source. After reviewing our latest quote for the Botanical Gardens- Secret Garden pad, we have a \$44,000 savings that can be added to the \$120,000 bringing the total available budget to \$164,000. The project to add decorative gates and 8' fencing around the perimeter of the Botanical Gardens. is estimated to cost \$284,200.

With support from the #301 Capital Improvement funding, it is the recommendation of staff to move forward with this project and use savings from the Botanical Gardens Secret Garden project to reduce the deficit from \$164,000 to \$120,200, to complete the security fencing project.

If approved, staff will create the required documentation to submit for Budget Amendment #2 in FY 2021-2022 (#301-7215-563000), where we'll request the necessary \$120,200 to cover the shortfall as described above.

Please consider our recommendations to proceed with the recommended funding request, as outlined above, for your approval. If approved, please indicate that consent below.

Thank you in advance.

Approved:



Russ Blackburn

Date:


Enclosures

c: David Graham, Assistant City Manager
Caroline Sturgis, Budget Director, Office of Management & Budget Department
Brad Keen, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Department
Mike Kendrick, Deputy Director-Parks, Parks & Recreation Department



INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

VIA: David Graham, Assistant City Manager 

FROM: Sherman Conrad, Director, Parks & Recreation Department

Re: RECOMMENDATIONS TO REALLOCATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDNG - FY 2021-2022 AND FY 2022-2023

DATE: March 7, 2022

BACKGROUND

On Monday, January 24, 2022, staff requested and received approval from you to accelerate the perimeter fencing project at the Botanical Gardens that was identified as a Capital Improvement Project (#301 fund) in FY 2022-2023. For your convenience, please see the memo which indicates your approval to move forward as requested.

Included in the approved FY 2021-2022 CIP are the following projects:

- Botanical Gardens Perimeter Fencing and Decorative Gates- Estimated \$120,000
- Botanical Gardens Security Camera/WIFI - \$362,000 (New Cost \$437,000)
- The Port Security Camera/WIFI - \$405,000 (New Cost \$610,000)

Unfortunately, due to the rising costs of commodities, significant increases in construction costs and new contracts, staff has now reached back out to Securitas Electronic Security, Inc., our security camera system provider, for an updated quote for each of these projects.

Based upon the two updated quotes received, as indicated above, we are recognizing a shortage for the project at The Port of \$205,000 and a shortage for the security camera/Wi-Fi project at the Botanical Gardens of \$75,000 within the CIP #301 fund. The new cost based upon the new contract with Securitas for the Botanical Gardens and The Port projects combined is an increase of \$280,000.

CURRENT ACTION

Despite the shortfall in funding this FY 2021-2022, staff has reviewed the current #301 CIP approved project list for FY 2021-2022 and would recommend the following as an option to cover the increase costs in the Botanical Gardens Fence project, and the shortfall in funding on both The Port and the Botanical Gardens security camera/WIFI CIP projects.

In order to remedy this, we are proposing to place a hold on the Sportsman's Park Security camera upgrade budgeted at \$475,000 for FY 2021-2022 and reallocate this project for FY 2022-2023 at

the current quoted price at \$757,188. This price includes the increase in the costs of commodities, construction costs and new contract changes.

By reallocating the \$475,000 from Sportsman's Park Security upgrade, the Botanical Gardens fence project, at \$120,000, the shortage of \$75,000 for the Botanical Gardens security system and the \$205,000 shortage for The Port Security system, will all be covered. By redirecting the Sportsman's Park Security upgrade project, we would recognize \$400,000 in project costs for FY 2021-2022, which would be dedicated toward the three projects as outlined above at The Port and Botanical Gardens. Moreover, we will also recognize \$75,000 in surplus in the #301 CIP budget which could be used for reserves.

In addition, during FY 2022-2023, the requested \$120,000 for the Botanical Gardens perimeter fence will be removed and the \$624,000 for Phase II, The Port Security Camera system, will also be eliminated.

Please consider our recommendations to proceed with the recommended changes, as outlined above, for your approval. If approved, please indicate that consent below.

Thank you in advance.

Approved:



Russ Blackburn

Date: 3-8-2022

Enclosure

c: Caroline Sturgis, Budget Director, Office of Management & Budget
Brad Keen, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Department
Mike Kendrick, Deputy Director-Parks, Parks & Recreation Department



INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

VIA: David Graham, Assistant City Manager 
Sherman Conrad, Director, Parks & Recreation Department

FROM: Mike Kendrick, Deputy Director – Parks, Parks & Recreation Department

Re: REQUEST TO PRIORITIZE – BOTANICAL GARDENS
FY 22-23 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO INSTALL PERIMETER FENCE

DATE: January 24, 2022

On January 24, 2022, Mr. Jeff Chambers, President of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens, sent another email advocating for the Parks & Recreation Department to prioritize the planned project to install perimeter fencing surrounding the Botanical Gardens property. Mr. Chambers concerns are based upon continued vandalism that is taking place in the Bamboo Garden and now the Rainbow Eucalyptus tree, as well as theft of plants, mulch, potting soil, and decorative pots during and after hours at the Gardens. (See attached photos)

Just recently, the Friends of the Botanical Gardens have experienced an increase in afterhours nefarious activities on the grounds, including a photographer tapping into the water source and filling a small pool within the Garden for a photo shoot, holding unauthorized weddings and events in the Secret Garden and creating disorder on the grounds to include glitter bombs and confetti.

Recognizing the difficulty in controlling such unwanted and unauthorized activities in order to maintain the Botanical Gardens as the “crown jewel” for which it is intended, we are seeking approval to prioritize the fencing project that is currently identified within the FY 2022-2023 budget. This item is identified in the Capital Improvement Project list (estimated at approximately \$120,000) for the Botanical Gardens and, should you so approve the prioritization of this project to this FY 2021-2022, we would begin seeking bids/quotes immediately, with the intention to further protect this facility.

Please be advised that we are still in the design process to install security cameras throughout the Botanical Gardens, and we are not expecting to begin this project until the City has received the new contract from Securitas. Once we receive the word from PMD to move forward, even once the purchase order has been issued, materials will take an estimated 3-5 months to arrive.

Upon your review of this memorandum, please indicate your direction below as to whether the City will consider this request or whether you direct us to continue deferment of this project (and its associated expense) until FY 2022-2023 CIP funds are requested/approved.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of my request. Please indicate your approval status below and we will move forward accordingly.

Approved:

Not Approved:

It is so decided as indicated above.



Russ Blackburn

Date:

Enclosed: Botanical Gardens Bamboo and Eucalyptus Tree Damage Photos

c: Brad Keen, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Department
Randy Ellman, Parks Operations Manager, Parks & Recreation Department

Mike Kendrick

From: Events Department at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens <events@pslbg.org>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 1:02 PM
To: Mike Kendrick; Randy Ellman; David Graham; Bradley Keen
Cc: Jeff Chambers; hifumari@gmail.com
Subject: More horrible damage to Botanical Gardens Property.
Attachments: Damage to rainbow eucalyptus tree happened between 1-19pm-1-21-2022.jpg

Dear Sirs,

We the Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens are writing you today to alert you that now beyond the defacement of the beautiful bamboo garden from the constant carving of names and such, the iconic Rainbow eucalyptus tree has now fallen victim to the vandalism.

This is a special tree of our many residents and the out of town guests who travel far to see it. The Rainbow eucalyptus draws more visitors than any one tree in the garden.

We still have the problem of "glitter bombs" and confetti from would be photographers coming on property after 4:30 pm as a constant occurrence.

We even had a photographer tap into the water to fill up a 6'X6' pool for a photo shoot.

Many volunteers ,members, residents and visitors alike have placed time and money in creating this source of pride for the city.

We need help if we are to keep our city jewel from turning into a urban park with trash and everything defaced. I know we all take pride in having such a beautiful Botanical Garden however if additional measures are not in place to secure our beautiful gardens the vision of the Port as a whole could be at risk.

Respectfully,

Heather Furnari

Vice President

Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens
events@pslbg.org

