



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Robert L. Tetens, Director
DATE: September 11, 2012
RE: Pedestrian Bridge Replacement: Sharon Mills Park

Background

Sharon Mills Park has a pedestrian bridge, west of Sharon Hollow Road, which has been reported by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as in need of repair or replacement. The bridge connects two viewing platforms that allow close access to the mill pond spillway. Originally constructed when Henry Ford owned the mill in the late 1920's, the bridge was partially rebuilt when WCPARC purchased the property and opened it for public use in 2002. The bridge decking and beams are supported by two reinforced concrete piers, which have been deteriorating for a number of years. The DEQ inspection report in 2002 recommended that the spalling on the adjacent spillway abutment be repaired within five years. In 2009, engineering consultant, Mannik & Smith (M&S), was engaged to inspect the bridge and prepare a preliminary report on its status. Based on the results of their investigations, M&S was authorized to prepare engineering design and plans to rehabilitate the bridge. Accordingly, M&S completed and submitted a Safety Inspection Report, including rehabilitation alternatives, on August 31, 2010.

Discussion

In August 2011, based on the information provided by M&S, RFP #6630 was prepared and issued by County Purchasing to provide the services required to rehabilitate the bridge. Unfortunately, only one bid was obtained at the cost of \$178,565. Accordingly, the project was revised and rebid in 2012, and the revisions included the option of removing the bridge entirely. A permit to perform the work was applied for and received from the DEQ. RFP #6669 was issued and bids were received in April. Two bids were received to remove the bridge and three bids were received to rehabilitate the bridge. The lowest bid to remove the bridge came in at \$147,000 and the lowest bid to rehabilitate the bridge was \$152,684. It was anticipated that the cost to remove the bridge would be significantly less than the cost to rehabilitate. Since the costs for both removal and rehabilitation were comparable, and the bridge still provides a useful park amenity, discussion surrounding additional rehabilitation options was explored.

The lowest bidding contractor for the project, Brock and Associates, Inc., has performed satisfactorily on other construction projects with WCPARC. The contractor has since provided information on how the existing bridge could be replaced by a new single-span bridge, similar to the others installed in the park, for an additional cost of \$52,903. This cost includes removal of the piers that currently support the existing bridge and the installation of new abutments to support the new bridge which M&S determined would be required. As it is reasonable to expect that a new bridge will last longer than a repaired bridge, replacement is a more cost effective decision in the long term.

Recommendation

Based upon the review by staff, it is my recommendation that the Commission enter into a contract with Brock and Associates, Inc. to replace the pedestrian bridge at Sharon Mills Park for a sum not to exceed \$205,587. This cost also includes the removal of the existing piers as they are no longer necessary for structural support and will continue to deteriorate, interfering with the movement of water through the dam spillway, an important concern noted by the state DEQ.

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