

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** October 4, 2016

**AGENDA ITEM:** 3F

**APPLICANT:** Vern L. Krahn, Senior Park Planner

**REQUEST:** **For Possible Action:** To recommend to the Board of Supervisors the balance of Residential Construction Tax funds in FY 2016/17 (approximately \$86,643) be allocated for the design and construction of a new playground at Ross Gold Park and to suspend the competitive process for these funds.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Previously, The Board of Supervisors allocated \$118,148 for improvements to Ross Gold Park's future construction costs and \$10,000 toward preliminary design fees. Currently in FY 2016/17 there is approximately \$86,643 available in Residential Construction Tax (RTC) funds. Staff is recommending that these funds be allocated to support the proposed funding strategy for the new playground at Ross Gold Park. These funds may be needed to supplement the project's budget depending on final grant awards. If all of these RCT funds are not required for the proposed playground project, they would be utilized for other future park projects.

At this time, staff is recommending the suspension of the competitive process for RCT funds. In previous years, the Parks and Recreation Department invited a competitive process and would receive project funding requests from the public for parks and recreation projects. Unfortunately RCT and the City's capital improvement project programs have been severely limited during the past seven years; consequently there is a back log of improvement projects required in our neighborhood parks to address.

While the competitive process was never a "formal" policy dictating how RCT funds should be allocated by the City, it was a procedure used during a time when RCT funds were abundant and the need for new facilities within the City was great. Due to the downturn in the economy and the tremendous need to replace deteriorating park infrastructure, this is no longer a possibility.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the balance of Residential Construction Tax funds in FY 2016/17 (approximately \$86,643) be allocated for the design and construction of a new playground at Ross Gold Park and to suspend the competitive process for these funds.