



TOWN OF BROOKLINE

Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Andrew M. Pappastergion
Commissioner
Erin Chute Gallentine
Director

Memorandum

To: Members of the Select Board, School Committee and Building Commission

From: Erin Gallentine, Director of Parks and Open Space *EG*

Date: February 6, 2019

Re: Request for authorization and approval by the Select Board, School Committee and Building Commission to enter into a contract with Weston and Sampson in the amount of \$300,000 for Landscape Architectural and Structural Engineering Consultant Services for the renovation and reconstruction of the Cypress Playground and Athletic Field.

Cc: Andrew M. Pappastergion, Commissioner of Public Works
Melvin Kleckner, Town Administrator

The Town of Brookline's Parks and Open Space Division of the Department of Public Works respectfully requests that the Select Board, School Committee and Building Commission award and execute a contract with Weston and Sampson Design Studio in the amount of \$300,000 for landscape architectural services, public engagement and design development services, engineering services and construction bid documents for the renovation and reconstruction of Cypress Playground and Athletic Field.

The Cypress Playground Design Review Committee (DRC) was appointed by the Park and Recreation Commission on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 and includes 4 Commissioners (Nancy O'Connor, Wendy Sheridan, Dan Lyons and Clara Batchelor) and 3 Members of the Public (Deborah Rivers, Matthew Cooney and School Committee Member Helen Charlupski). The DRC interviewed landscape architect and engineering teams on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Both the DRC and Parks and Open Space Division staff unanimously selected Weston and Sampson Design Studios as the most qualified team for the successful design and construction of Cypress Playground and Athletic Field. The team is qualified and prepared to ensure design integration with the relevant landscape and architectural elements of the High School Expansion and Renovation Project, headed by the School Committee, School Department, Brookline High School Building Committee, and the Select Board.

Weston and Sampson presented a very strong proposal with exceptional references from the municipalities of Somerville, Worcester, Needham, Newton, Cambridge, and Boston. They specialize in municipal projects of similar scope and profile as Cypress Playground and have worked successfully with the Town of Brookline in the past, including the design of both Waldstein and Eliot Playground renovation projects. They have a demonstrated track record in the public

engagement process and we are confident that they will provide us with the design and technical expertise required for a successful and well-integrated Cypress Playground renovation project.

In May 2018, Town Meeting approved Item 71 to “*Appropriate, \$189,200,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commission, with any necessary contracts to be approved by the Select Board and the School Committee to renovate and expand Brookline High School, including the acquisition and reconstruction of the property located at 111 Cypress Street and renovations or repairs to Brookline High School, the Evelyn Kirrane Aquatic Center, the Unified Arts Building, the 66 Tappan Street Gym, and Cypress Field.*” Funding for the Cypress Playground Renovation Project in the amount of \$5.8M was part of this appropriation.

Cypress Playground is an important open space that supports the neighborhood, the High School and the Town at large, hosting a variety of active and passive uses. Improvements are needed in a number of areas. Our overall goals are to maximize safety and accessibility, provide a place of active and passive recreation in which the community can come together, enhance opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, and create a beautiful open space in this dense neighborhood. Through the public design review process, we will be examining the following:

- Universal access to and within the park;
- Redesign for a new playground, including play equipment and resilient safety surfacing;
- Renovation of water play area;
- Consideration of site furniture and destinations for seating and picnicking throughout the park;
- Renovation of the natural grass athletic fields, basketball courts and sports lighting;
- New pathways and improved pedestrian movement through the park;
- Grading and drainage improvements to direct runoff appropriately; and,
- Treatment of the park’s perimeter to address issues of fencing, planting and views in and out of the park.

The design review process consists of presentation and open discussion of alternative solutions to meet our goals for the playground in a series of public meetings over the course of approximately six to eight months. The Park and Recreation Commission is coordinating its process with the proposed schedule for the High School Expansion and Renovation Project. It is the intent of the Commission to have the Park Renovation Project completed at the same time as the High School project in order to minimize the overall duration of the disruption to the community.

The Department of Public Works, Parks and Open Space Division, respectfully requests approval to award and execute this contract with Weston and Sampson in order to start our work with the community to develop a wonderful upgraded community park that will serve the High School, the community and the neighborhood for generations to come. Code 2594C204 6C0007 has been set up for this project.