



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: May 22, 2017
To: Jason Haas, Chair, Parks, Energy and Environment Committee
From: John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes) Update (INFORMATIONAL)**

ISSUE

The Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes) is the subject of a long-range planning effort, currently lead and facilitated by the Domes Task Force.

BACKGROUND

Since the last update to the Parks, Energy, and Environment Committee in January of 2017, the Domes Task Force has convened three times. Meeting topics have included:

- Development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultant services on the Future Path and Feasibility Study of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes).
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Peer Review/Report and Presentation.
- American Public Gardens Symposium Update and Presentation.
- Comparative analysis of the Graef USA, Inc., and WJE and Associates, Inc., engineering reports by Milwaukee County's Facilities Management Division, Architectural and Environmental Services Section, Department of Administrative Services.
- Presentation by the City of Milwaukee's Department on City Development on the planning and investment to support Mitchell Park and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Public commentary.

With the oversight of the Domes Task Force, County staff drafted and issued the RFP titled the *Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory Future Path and Feasibility Study* in



early February of 2017. After conducting an on-site proposal meeting, consultants were given approximately one month to submit proposals that addressed analysis of programs and services, revenue generation and financial impacts, operations and management, social and economic impacts, site/structure and facility, and other elements that will result in a sustainable long-term solution for The Domes and its surrounding site. Seven proposals were received and reviewed by a review panel comprised of both County staff and representatives of the Domes Task Force. After numeric rankings were completed based on key review criteria, it was determined that the top four firms would be invited for interviews. The consensus of the review panel was the selection of a team led by HGA (Hammel, Green & Abrahamson, Inc.) and including subconsultants Montgomery Smith, Kapur & Assoc., ConsultEcon, Quorum Architects, and Middleton Construction.

The anticipated schedule for the feasibility study calls for Phase I of the study, focused on the feasibility and market analysis, to be complete by fall of 2017. Phase II of the project will then immediately begin, with a focus on public outreach and feedback.

RECOMMENDATION

No action requested. Informational item unless further action required.

Prepared by: Sarah Toomsen, Manager of Planning and Development

Approved by:



John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director DPRC

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – January 25, 2017 Domes Task Force Agenda
- Attachment 2 – March 22, 2017 Domes Task Force Agenda
- Attachment 3 – May 3, 2017 Domes Task Force Agenda
- Attachment 4 – May 16, 2017 Facilities Mgmt Comparative Analysis of Domes Engineering Reports (WJE and Graef)
- Attachment 5 – Appointment letter: Ian Bautista

Copy:

Chris Abele, County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Marcelia Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee
Peggy Romo-West, Supervisor District 12
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS