

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: November 4, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3C

APPLICANT: Roger Moellendorf, Director of Parks & Recreation

REQUEST: **For possible action:** To approve staff's recommendation for the allocation of Residential Construction Tax funds for FY 2015/2016 for improvement projects to Ross Gold Park and to suspend a competitive process for those funds.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: During the October 6, 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting staff presented the commission with a recommendation to use the entire amount of the available RCT funds (\$135,290) to fund improvements to Ross Gold Park. During the discussion staff was asked by the commission if staff would employ a competitive process whereby the commission would receive funding requests from the public for parks and recreation projects. Staff responded that because funding through the RCT program and the capital program has been so limited for the past seven years resulting in a backlog of improvements to our neighborhood parks; staff would like to focus in the short term on the completion of these badly needed improvements. The commission inquired as to whether the competitive process was a policy and if so should it be adhered to or changed. Staff in ordered to answer this question researched the RCT program extensively going back to 1979 records and could not find any evidence of a formal policy stipulating a competitive process. Staff also contacted former Parks and Recreation Director Steve Kastens who was involved in the RCT program from its inception. Mr. Kastens confirmed that there was never a formal policy dictating how RCT funds should be allocated. Mr. Kastens informed staff that the competitive process was utilized during a time when RCT funds were abundant and the need for new facilities was great. Parks and facilities built in that era are now in need of improvement and replacement. Ross Gold Parks is one of our neighborhood parks that have the greatest need for improvements. These improvements include the replacement of its aged playground equipment, picnic shelter and its asphalt pathways. The condition of the pathways has degenerated beyond normal maintenance solutions and need to be replaced. Ross Gold Park is located in South Carson City at Appion Way and California Street and is the only park that services an area that is bounded by East Clearview Street on the north; Gentry Way on the east, Carson Street on the west and the Stewart Colony to the south. If this recommendation is approved by the commission, staff will bring cost estimates for the improvements to the December Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The Board of Supervisor will have final approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to approve staff's recommendation for the allocation of Residential Construction Tax funds for FY 2015/16 to improvement projects to Ross Gold Park and to suspend a competitive process for those funds.