

STAFF REPORT
City Council Agenda
January 16, 2013

TO: Randal J. Mendosa, City Manager

FROM: R. Charles (Doby) Class, Public Works Director

STAFF CONTACT: Dan Diemer, Parks and Facilities Superintendent

RE: Consider Approval of the Purchase of a Public Restroom to be Located at the Northwest Mid block of 8th Street West of the Plaza between H and I Streets.

DATE: January 8, 2013

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council: Approve Award of Contract to the City of Portland, Oregon, through an Intergovernmental Agency Agreement, for the Purchase of the Portland Loo Toilet that will be installed West of the Plaza on the northwesterly side of 8th Street, between H and I Streets.

INTRODUCTION

Over this past year Councilmembers Susan Ornelas and Shane Brinton have been working with a group of citizens to develop a proposal for a public restroom in the downtown area located within 200 feet of the Plaza to provide service for the general public and during the Farmers' Market. After a review of the existing public toilets available on the market and suitable to install at this location, and consideration of a potential new design to be developed by an architect, staff is recommending the Council consider a purchase and installation of a unit called the Portland Loo (See attached figures 1-3) .

DISCUSSION

The City Council has had several discussions regarding the installation of a public restroom in the downtown area. Councilmembers Ornelas and Brinton have been working with members of the community identified as the 'Bathroom Committee' to provide design details and placement of a public restroom. The 'Bathroom Committee' assisted staff with the details necessary for the Request for Proposals. In June of 2012, The Council directed staff to draft and advertise a Request for Proposals for the design and construction specifications of a single stall public toilet that would be located in downtown Arcata. The City received only one official proposal and met with their representatives.

Through the review of the submitted proposal, and the design specifications requested by the Bathroom Committee, staff found significant similarities between the community's priorities and the construction and design specifications of the Portland Loo. Further review of the Portland Loo also revealed several design features that were developed specifically to address concerns that have been expressed by the community such as vandal proofing, a visibly open design that provides a safety to those using it especially at night and accessible parts that can be replaced if they are broken. The Portland Loo has been installed and is successfully functioning in both Portland Oregon and Victoria, Canada. The

Portland Loo can be manufactured and delivered to the City of Arcata within 60 - 75 days of receiving a purchase order. During that time, City crews can prepare the site for installation. The proposed site has the infrastructure to support the water and sewer requirements and will not require any PG&E electric connection. There is landscaping and a sculpture located adjacent to the site (refer to attached figures 1-3).

Operations and maintenance

Ongoing yearly costs for maintenance and operations are estimated to be \$20,000-25,000 annually, which includes labor, supplies and vandalism costs. It is anticipated that these costs will be initially absorbed within the existing Parks and Facilities Divisions which will result in less funds and personnel being available for other services and an increase in the operations budget for supplies unless additional funds are allocated. The hours of operation will need to be discussed once the facility is constructed and it is documented what the labor requirements/typical usage is for the facility.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost to purchase and install the one-stall toilet is \$110,000. These funds have not been included in the 2012/2013 budget. However, the City has reserves that can be used for acquisition and installation purposes. Future operating budget will be refined once the facility has been in operation for an evaluation period for next fiscal year budget.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 Proposed Site Location

Attachment 2 Detailed Proposed Site Location

Attachment 3 Proposed Site Rendering

Attachment 4 Memo from Ad-Hoc Bathroom Committee

