

Park

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amount for the project of \$325,000.

“We were anticipating at one time that we might see bids very close to that and we might not be able to do that warming house concrete walk, but bids came in very well and we feel we can get that all done,” City Engineer Dan Boyum said.

Work should be substantially complete sometime this summer with final restoration work continuing into the fall, Boyum estimated.

The selection of Haho Cos. prompted questions from the New Hope City Council before the May 9 approval vote about the business’s ability to complete the project. The

owner started Haho Cos. after working as a subcontractor, Boyum said.

Councilmember Jonathan London pointed out that he could not find much operating history for Haho Cos. on the internet.

“I really couldn’t even find a website,” London said to Boyum. “I’m hoping that the fact that the bid is so low compared to your estimate is the reason why we’ve chosen to take the risk to do business with someone with a limited operating history and what appears to be a fairly small business. I don’t think this is a big, major project, but I think I just want to, again, know that you’ve thought this through and that you’re comfortable with the risk that we’re taking here.”

The city obtains payment and performance bonds for all projects of

a similar size or larger, Boyum responded. The company has a history of work on retaining walls in particular.

“I think that gives us some confidence with that work, but it is a new business,” Boyum acknowledged.

The city does rely on smaller contractors who can fit such work into their schedules for similar park projects, he added.

“We’ve had good luck with the smaller contractors in the past, and we’ll keep that performance bond and payment bond if there are any issues,” he said.

The council approved the bid unanimously.

Members subsequently approved contracts with Flagship Recreation and Landscaping Structures for about \$149,000 for the playground equipment and installation, fabric,

playground mats and engineered wood fiber at the park, 8800 32nd Ave. N.

Of that, nearly \$117,000 will go to Landscape Structures for the installation with the rest going to Flagship Recreation for the equipment.

Hidden Valley Park is the oldest playground in the city, according to a city staff report, with most of the equipment dating back to 1998. The tot area had been replaced in 2017 after an arson incident, the report notes.

A committee with representatives from the neighborhood, Flagship Recreation, Stantec, the council, the New Hope Citizen Advisory Commission and city staff picked a color scheme for the playground equipment after presenting options to residents. An illustration appears to show lime-green equipment in-

terspersed with shades of teal and aquamarine. The equipment includes slides, swings, climbing areas and other attractions. The layout also includes a zip

line that a young girl had suggested during an input period.

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Waste

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on a five-year contract in Robbinsdale, which will expire in 2025. The company collects all garbage, recycling and yard waste from residents.

In March, a Waste Management representative told the council that

staffing had resumed to pre-pandemic levels and apologized for service issues in the past year and a half.

Robbinsdale customers are not being charged for missed yard waste pick-ups. The city has organized a temporary yard waste drop-off site 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursday at the public works facility on Toledo Avenue North as a tem-

porary solution. The city and Waste Management also organized a one-day, citywide yard waste pick-up June 18. Residents are asked to leave out yard waste by 6 a.m. that day, and leave it through the evening to ensure pickup.

The Robbinsdale City Council is set to discuss its ongoing issues with the trash hauler at a June 14 work session.

At the June 7 meeting,

Councilmember George Selman requested that each councilmember review the city’s contract with Waste Management prior to the work session to understand the “tools” at their disposal. He hoped doing so would help the city “come to a definitive plan faster, and get this fixed.”

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NEWS BRIEF

Filing period for Robbinsdale Ward 1 seat begins in August

The filing period for a special election to fill the Ward 1 seat on the Robbinsdale City Council begins Aug. 2 and will extend through Aug. 16. The seat was vacated by former Councilmember Tyler Kline in late May following a recall petition.

The election could occur in the general election Nov. 8 or Feb.

14, depending on the number of candidates who file for office. If more than two candidates file, the city must host a primary election, pushing the election to the February date.

After the filing period ends, filers will have two-day period to withdraw their candidacy if they so wish.

Per city charter, the seat must be filled via election because the remainder of the Ward 1 term is greater than 8 months. The Ward 1 term expires in 2025.

The Robbinsdale City Council

declared a vacancy for the seat at its June 7 meeting.

Councilmember George Selman voiced his disappointment that residents in Ward 1 would be without representation for up to 9 months, and asked for the city’s charter commission to revisit the rule if the situation were to happen again in the future.

“I know we can’t fix it at this time,” he said.

Selman added that in the interim, Ward 1 residents could reach out to any member of the council to voice their concerns.



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