



AGENCY:	City Council
MEETING DATE:	April 23, 2007
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development
PREPARED BY:	J. Owen/M. Jones
DEPT. DIR. APPROVAL:	_____
CITY MGR. APPROVAL:	_____
PRESENTED BY:	M. Jones/Paul Siri

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:

RECEIVE PRESENTATION AND PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING THE DRAFT DETAILED PROJECT PROGRAM FOR THE NOYO CENTER FOR SCIENCE & EDUCATION AT FORT BRAGG

ISSUE:

In June 2006, the City awarded a contract to Paul Siri for preparation of a “Detailed Project Program” (DPP) for the “Noyo Center for Science and Education at Fort Bragg” project. Preparation of the DPP was identified as the next step in a comprehensive planning process described in the “Strategic Plan for the Noyo Center” prepared by consultant Susan Lohr in February 2006. The DPP synthesizes program recommendations, site options, site development considerations, and facility operation requirements into a phased development program including initial cost estimates. A preliminary draft DPP will be presented to the City Council for review and comment. The final document, with technical appendices and large-format site plans and illustrations, will be submitted to the City next month.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive presentation and provide direction regarding the Draft Detailed Project Program for the Noyo Center for Science and Education at Fort Bragg

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

1. Accept report as presented
2. Ask questions and provide direction to staff and consultants regarding additional information and/or clarification to be provided in the final report.

ANALYSIS:

The City’s initial community planning process for reuse of the former Georgia-Pacific Mill Site (*Georgia Pacific Mill Site Reuse Study-September 2004*) identified a strong community interest in attracting an institutional use to the Mill Site, in order to generate high-quality jobs and stimulate local economic development. In particular, interest focused on potential development of a marine research and education facility.

Using funding provided by a 2004 State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning and Technical Assistance Grant, the City hired Susan Lohr, a private consultant specializing in marine facility planning, development and operations, to evaluate the practicality and likely success of developing such a facility on the former Mill Site.

Beginning in July 2005 with a series of stakeholder meetings, Susan Lohr facilitated a broad community-based planning process in order to solicit local input. In November 2005, this stage of the planning process culminated with a panel report to the community from Susan Lohr and a team of marine experts she brought to Fort Bragg to evaluate community needs and potential for a marine-centered institution.

Synthesizing this community and professional input, Susan Lohr prepared a draft "Strategic Plan for the Noyo Center" for comment in February 2006, and presented the Plan to Council in May 2006. The Strategic Plan consists of a Mission Statement, Noyo Center Vision, and Goals. Strategic Plan goals are delineated as Administration, Planning and Facility Development Goals; Program Goals, including Research, Learning and Outreach Goals; and Funding Goals.

The first Planning Goal, identified as "Approve the Noyo Center Strategic Plan," was accomplished in May 2006. The second Planning Goal is "Complete and approve a Noyo Center Detailed Project Program." In order to accomplish the second Planning Goal, the City applied for and received another CDBG Planning and Technical Assistance Grant in 2005. Funding from this grant allowed the City to hire Paul Siri, a highly regarded biologist with exceptional expertise and experience related to state and national research and education programs as well as facility and administrative needs for multifunction marine centers. Mr. Siri was also a member of the team of experts assembled by Susan Lohr to assist in the first stage of the strategic planning process.

Paul Siri presented his proposal for a Detailed Project Program (DPP) to City Council in May 2006. The DPP is intended to provide the programmatic foundation for a master plan and eventual detailed architectural design. Tasks to be accomplished in the DPP include:

- Phase I: Discovery, including Resource Inventory and Infrastructure
- Phase II: Program Design, including Site Development, Facility Development, Sustainable Design, and Operational Requirements;
- Phase III: Final Report, including technical appendices and large-format site plans and illustrations.

As part of his charge to solicit information and input from stakeholders, Mr. Siri met with various interested parties in Fort Bragg and also brought to the area some of his assembled experts. He was accompanied by Susan Lohr, who is providing oversight and guidance as the planning process continues, to ensure that DPP development coordinates with the goals and vision established through the extensive strategic planning process.

Briefly, the DPP sets forth a number of important decisions regarding the Center, including:

- Identification of a location and general green building design considerations
- Assessment of resources at the site including marine access, topography, biological resources
- Near term program opportunities and requirements including: surface current mapping, technical training for ocean observing, collaborative research for science recovery, ocean wave energy development, collaboration with Jackson State Forest

on education and research regarding sustainable forestry practices, interpretation, education and research.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Planning funds to support the initial Strategic Plan stage and the second Detailed Project Program phase were provided by two CDBG Planning & Technical Assistance grants. Subsequent planning and implementation steps identified in the Strategic Plan will require identification of other funding sources. The consultants have identified potential funding sources for some of the program activities recommended in the DPP.

IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:

Modifications or changes recommended by City Council will be incorporated by the consultant into a final Detailed Project Program report. The final document, with technical appendices and large-format site plans and illustrations, will be submitted to the City next month.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Draft Detailed Project Program](#)

NOTIFICATION:

1. Paul Siri
2. Susan Lohr
3. Sheila Semans, State Coastal Conservancy
4. Scott Goldie, Brooks Street
5. Carol Stephens, Georgia-Pacific

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Agency Action Approved Denied Approved as Amended

Resolution No.: _____ Ordinance No.: _____

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Vote:

Deferred/Continued to meeting of: _____

Referred to: _____