

STAFF REPORT

Date: September 25, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential direction to staff regarding the allocation of \$1,391,010 in State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act to enhance community recreation, address safety needs, and provide continuity of services through the following projects and contract renewals: Reno Tennis Court Lights (\$450,000), a second Parks Rolling Recreation Unit (\$145,702), Parks and Recreation Security Cameras (\$50,000), and outreach contract renewals for the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (\$397,604) and the Karma Box Project (\$347,704).

From: Cynthia Esparza, Chief Equity and Community Relations Officer

Department: City Manager's Office

Summary: Council previously allocated \$2,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) to the Pembroke Flat Field project. At the August 28, 2024 Council meeting, Council discussed this project, estimated development and maintenance costs, and future needs. Council approved funding for a final construction design for the Pembroke Fields in advance of possible future development and funding opportunities. As a result, \$1,391,010 ARPA funds remain and staff recommends the allocation of the funds to enhance community recreation, address safety needs, and provide continuity of services. Projects and allocations include Reno Tennis Court Lights (\$450,000), a Parks Rolling Recreation Unit (\$145,702), Security Cameras (\$50,000), and outreach contract renewals with the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (\$397,604) and the Karma Box Project (\$347,704).

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Economic Opportunity, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing
Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources
Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

August 28, 2024 – Presentation and discussion on projected costs related to the development of the Pembroke Flat Field project. Council provided direction to develop a comprehensive final construction design.

October 25, 2024 – Council approved 12-months contracts, October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, for outreach services with the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality and the Karma Box Project. Contracts were funded via the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) through ARPA.

March 8, 2023 – Council approved an allocation of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) through ARPA for flat field support in the amount of \$2M to develop flat fields.

Background:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The SLFRF allocates funding to state, county, and local governments to support efforts to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reno City Council has approved priority categories based on Treasury requirements, community input, City of Reno Strategic Plan, and Reno City Council priorities. These are:

- Access to Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Community Projects
- Pandemic Response
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Safety
- Senior Support

Discussion: After the \$2,000,000 ARPA allocation to the Pembroke Flat Field project, CFA, Inc. was contracted to conduct a land survey, civil engineering, and land use planning services covering the project’s initial analysis and site layout of Pembroke Flat Fields in the amount of \$158,990. The development of the fields is estimated to cost \$22.3M and in the Spring of 2024, the Great Basin Youth Soccer League (GBYSL) expressed interest in constructing and maintaining these future facilities. While a long standing and respected community partner, the project’s scope, estimated costs, and long-term sustainability exceed the support GBYSL can assume with current time frames. This was presented and discussed by staff and GBYSL at the August 28, 2024 Council meeting. Consequently, Council approved \$450,000 in funding for the final construction design of the flat fields, as a preliminary step in preparation for future development and potential fundraising efforts.

As a result, \$1,391,010 ARPA funds remain. In compliance with federal regulation, fund allocation must be completed by December 31, 2024. Staff recommends reallocating the remaining \$1,391,010 ARPA funds to support additional Park and Recreation projects, including facility enhancements and safety needs, and the continuity of citywide outreach unsheltered services. These recommendations are scalable, ARPA qualifying, and fulfill allocation requirements.

ARPA Allocation	
Project	Amount
Reno Tennis Court Lights	\$450,000
Rolling Recreation Unit	\$145,702
Security Cameras	\$50,000
Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE) Outreach Program	\$397,604
Karma Box Project Street Outreach Program	\$347,704
	\$1,390,010

Reno Tennis Court Lights

Parks and Recreation is seeking funding to enhance the lighting at the Reno Tennis Center. Currently, only four of the courts are equipped with lighting and the existing lighting is outdated. The funds will be used to upgrade the outdated system and install new lights and poles at four additional courts. When installed, this will provide lighting for half of the Reno Tennis Center. The design for the lighting is complete and ready to advertise if funding becomes available.

Rolling Recreation Activation

The Rolling Recreation program provides instant and consistent activation in our parks and open spaces allowing residents and visitors access to services previously limited to recreation centers and special events. The funding would allow for the creation of an additional rolling recreation unit including a vehicle, trailer, and recreation equipment. Remaining funding would supplement the current budget to increase regular activation in underserved areas.

Security Cameras

Parks and Recreation utilize a mobile camera unit that provides an audible warning and still images activated by motion for people who may access a park after hours. The operation can be limited to hours that parks and spaces are not open to the public to educate the individuals of their violation. Currently the Parks and Recreation department have one camera unit deployed and have seen positive results in preventing activity and trespassing. This funding would allow for the purchase of 5 more of the same or similar systems to be deployed to high priority parks, the along the Truckee River corridor, and recreation facilities, with an emphasis on downtown.

The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE)

This funding will support ongoing professional intervention teams to engage and motivate our unsheltered community to pursue healthier, more productive lifestyles. A team of peer support specialists with extensive training and experience in crisis intervention, active listening, de-escalation, trauma-informed care, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, diversion strategies, diversity and inclusion, and mental health first aid will work with identified encampments to provide support, resources, and options to our unhoused neighbors. This intervention will minimize the trauma associated with relocations and will increase the likelihood of future successful permanent housing. The team, which includes 1 manager and 4 specialists, will also utilize the homeless management information system (HMIS) and DROPS (Direct Resource Outreach & Placement Service). The allocation supports a 12-month contract, providing continuity of ongoing efforts lead by the Clean and Safe program. The proposed renewal in the amount of \$397,604 does not include a merit increase as reserves from their current ARPA allocation, approximately \$20,000, will offset this increase in a new contract. RISE is in good standing with the System for Award Management (SAM) and the current contract ending on September 30, 2024, is attached for reference.

Karma Box Street Outreach Program

Karma Box Project takes a proactive approach to creating a safe environment around local businesses. The Street Outreach team includes a part-time director, 1 outreach supervisor, and 2 specialists, who engage unhoused people in cleaning up trash throughout the city while working with outreach providers. This acts as a vehicle to build rapport and eventually get them into housing, shelter, or programing. It will also provide the individuals with employment skills. Individuals will be selected from the unsheltered population and at the end of the workday will receive a \$50 gift card. Additionally, Karma Box is assigned to various zones within Reno for outreach services. Interactions are entered into the homeless management information system (HMIS) and DROPS (Direct Resource Outreach & Placement Service) to receive outreach services and support as needed. The allocation supports a 12-month contract, providing continuity with ongoing efforts lead by the Clean and Safe program. The Karma Box Project is in good standing with the System for Award Management (SAM) and the current contract ending on September 30, 2024, is attached for reference.

Financial Implications:

Future funding of projects using these funds will follow standard City purchasing and contracting policies and procedures.

Legal Implications:

Funds will be allocated and spent in compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act, Department of Treasury Final Rule, and City purchasing policies and procedures.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approves the allocations in the amount of total \$1,391,010 in State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act to Reno Tennis Court Lights (\$450,000), a Parks Rolling Recreation Unit (\$145,702), Security Cameras (\$50,000), and outreach contract renewals with the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (\$397,604) and the Karma Box Project (\$347,704).

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.