landscape professionals. Ed Castro consistently bid over scope items anticipated in the original budget worksheet. Willow consistently bid well over. Smith consistently bid under, however, after discussions with field experts, staff is uncertain that the work can be completed satisfactorily for bids offered by Smith. The bid summary is attached. Bids do not include the cost of play set or swing set equipment, which is likely to cost between $10,000-20,000.

Considering the uncertainty expressed about the original design as well as Ed Castro's bids, staff recommends that Council form a small committee to consult with the design firm and the contractor on the best way maximize the $50,000 budgeted. Once changes, if any, have been decided and approved by Council, staff will offer an amendment to the State. This process needs to happen, however, in an expeditious manner. The project must be completed and all funds exhausted by the end of the calendar year. By all accounts, the project should take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete, barring unforeseen circumstances such as inclement weather.

Respectfully,

S/ Luke Howe
Assistant to the Mayor