

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 16, 2023

PREPARED BY: Shawn Muir, Community Services Manager

REQUEST: REJECT ALL PROPOSALS FOR MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF
THE PALM DESERT AQUATIC CENTER

RECOMMENDATION:

Reject all proposals for Management and Operations of the Palm Desert Aquatic Center.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The Palm Desert Aquatic Center (PDAC) has been operated by the Family YMCA of the Desert (YMCA) since the facility opened in 2011. In January 2018, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for management of the Palm Desert Aquatic Center. A competitive bidding process was conducted resulting with the award of Contract No. C36620 to the Family YMCA of the Desert for a one-year term with an option to renew every year until June 30, 2023. An RFP was released in November 2022, however, due to changes needed to the scope of work that were identified during the proposal review process and negotiations, the proposals were rejected. Amendment No. 5 was approved on April 27, 2023, to extend the contract with the YMCA through December 31, 2023.

An aquatics consulting firm, Counsilman Hunsaker, was contracted to assist City Staff with the RFP process. The scope of work was updated, and a new RFP was issued on August 3, 2023. Six proposals were received and evaluated; however, City Staff made the decision that a stronger management approach was needed for the facility. Key Performance Indicators are currently under development, along with new reporting structures and oversight.

At the request of City staff, Mayor Kelly appointed Councilmembers Harnik and Trubee to a PDAC Subcommittee to meet with and advise the City Manager and staff on related matters. Mayor Kelly noted she selected Councilmember Trubee due to his role as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Committee and Councilmember Harnik as the sole current Councilmember who was serving when the PDAC opened. In December, the Parks and Recreation Committee will be requested to select a representative to serve on this subcommittee.

At this time, staff request the City Council reject all proposals received through the August 3, 2023, RFP process. Staff intends to bring Amendment No. 6 to the City Council meeting scheduled on December 12, 2023, to incorporate the updated scope and extend Contract No. C36620 through June 30, 2025.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Since the current Amendment No. 5 does not expire until December 31, 2023, there is no financial impact as a result of this action.