

Memo

To: City Council
From: Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director
Date: February 9, 2018
Re: Choice of engineering firm for Pocket Park project

The next step in the pocket park project is to hire an engineering firm – a firm that will prepare fully-engineered plans, assist the city during the bid process, and oversee construction. They will also conduct boundary and topographic surveys of the site to ensure there is a clear understanding of site conditions prior to the project beginning.

I released a Request for Proposals to engineering firms in January, and received responses from 5 engineering firms, including Rowe, Prein & Newhof, Wade-Trim, Wolverine, and Viridis. From those, I selected three finalists based on cost, experience and effort shown in the response.

City Manager Gregg Guetschow, CharlotteRising Director Dillon Rush, and I interviewed the finalist firms, and **we are recommending the low bidder, Viridis Design**. All three of us agreed on this recommendation.

Beyond being the low bidder, Viridis has demonstrated a sincere interest in this project, having developed the concept drawing last summer through a successful public input process. Viridis provided professional references from City of Grand Rapids Parks, Kent County Parks, Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., and Meridian Township. When contacted, none of these agencies expressed concern regarding work done by Viridis. The firm also has a strong portfolio of similar projects undertaken in urban settings.

Viridis is proposing a not-to-exceed cost of \$21,020.00 for the project. The other finalists were at \$25,000 (Rowe) and \$32,100 (P&N).