



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**#13-0751**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** May 21, 2013

**TITLE:** Discussion of acceptance a Land Water Conservation Grant from the  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection to be used toward the  
purchase of the Rivermont property located at 1016 Waverly Road.

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The purpose of this memorandum is to obtain Commission direction on whether staff should move forward with the acceptance of a Land Water Conservation Fund Grant (LWCF) and to identify the source of matching funds for the grant. A possible source of funding for the grant match is the park impact fee fund FD350.01.

The Parks and Recreation Department has been involved in efforts to acquire the Rivermont property, a residential property, located at 1016 Waverly Road. The site is the subject of a bank foreclosure. The property owner, Regent Bank, is currently working with private parties raise \$1,500,000 to potentially transfer ownership of the property to the City of Fort Lauderdale. The 2.97-acre site would then serve as an addition to the adjacent .75-acre Major William Lauderdale Park, providing the community with direct access to the North Fork of the New River.

To provide some history, on February 23, 2011 the Parks and Recreation Department submitted a Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant application in the amount \$1,908,780 to potentially fund the acquisition. As the availability of Florida Forever Program Funds was unknown at the time, the Trust for Public Land expressed an interest in pre-acquiring the property on behalf of the City, allowing the City an opportunity to secure the FCT grant. The FCT grant was not awarded, and the TPL did not pre-acquire the site.

The Parks and Recreation Department applied for Land Water Conservation Grant (LWCF) funds and, on October 25, 2012, received notice acknowledging the approval of a \$200,000 grant.

The Halliday Group, an independent private party, is now seeking private donors to acquire the property with plans to transfer ownership to the City. The \$200,000 grant requires a \$200,000 match.

The LWCF grant agreement must be executed in order for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to encumber National Park Service funds. Once the agreement is executed, FDEP will allow one year to secure the balance of funds necessary to purchase the site and three years after the acquisition to develop the site. If the balance of the funding has not been identified after one year, the Agreement provides that the City may send written notice to the Department indicating that the City wishes to cancel the Project, the Department shall then respond with a termination notice setting out the procedures for proper closeout of the Agreement.

With the understanding the grant requires a \$200,000 match, staff is seeking direction on whether it should move forward with the grant and the source for matching funds. Once the source of the match funding is identified, the agreement will be placed on the Commission agenda for execution.

### **Resource Impact**

The \$200,000 grant requires a \$200,000 match. A possible source of funding for the grant match is the Park Impact Fee fund FD350.01, which has a sufficient fund balance to cover the match. Grant match funds (FD001/9129) are another potential source of match funding.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends we proceed with the grant and cover the match. If the private funding in the approximate amount of \$1.5 million is not obtained, the City may cancel the project. The \$200,000 match is believed to be a very good investment to obtain a riverfront park.

Related CAM(s): #12-0513

Attachment(s)

Exhibit 1 – Award Letter

Exhibit 2 – Property Aerial

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Prepared by: Gina Rivera, Grants & Special Projects Coordinator, x5786

Department Director: Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Director