



## Interoffice Memorandum

**To:** City Commission

**Thru:** Charles J. Billias, City Manager

**From:** Bob Torres, Public Works Director

**Subject:** Request to Award Bid to Purchase  
Ipe Lumber for Shepard Park  
Phase 1 Boardwalk

**Date:** December 27, 2004

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### **1. Key Facts/Issues Requiring Discussion/Background Information**

The City and its consultant Quentin Hampton Associates, Inc. have designed and permitted a proposed 740 foot long X 8 foot wide boardwalk, tying in and extending north from the existing Marion Lane dune crossover (to remain) and connecting to the existing handicapped dune crossover located just south of the park entrance (to be rebuilt). In addition, two (2) other existing dune crossover structures will be replaced at the southern portion of the park within these limits.

The project was designed with marine/structural grade wood pilings for both the boardwalk and the three (3) replacement dune crossovers. For the remaining boardwalk and crossover materials, two alternatives were designed.

The first alternative specifies a wood product. A hardwood called Ipe was specified for its many beneficial qualities – no splinters (surface stays smooth), its strength, decay resistance (high-25 years plus), resistance to termites, etc.

The second alternative specifies a combination of recycled structural plastic and Ipe hardwood. Because Ipe is much stronger structurally than plastic, Ipe was specified for the cross bracing, top and bottom rails, hand rails, and stair stringers. Recycled structural plastic was specified for the girders, joists and decking. Keep in mind that additional and larger plastic members than for Ipe were required in order to meet the strength requirements for constructing the boardwalk and crossovers. For economy, black plastic was specified for the girders and joists while light gray was specified for the decking.

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An RFP for the materials for both alternatives was advertised on December 6, 2004. The pressure treated wood pilings were included in both alternatives. The bid opening was set for Monday, December 20, 2004. An addendum for the RFP was faxed to the four (4) prospective bidders on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Only one (1) bid was received, from Universal Building Specialties of Auburndale, Florida. Their bid for the first alternative, all Ipe, including shipping to Cocoa Beach is \$128,981.72. Their bid for the second alternative, the combination of recycled structural plastic and Ipe, including shipping to Cocoa Beach is \$151,122.78.

**2. Cost/Benefit**

The cost and benefits are as follows:

Alternative (A) Ipe only	\$128,981.72
Alternative (B) Recycled structural Plastic and Ipe	\$151,122.78
Cost Savings for Using Alternative (A) Ipe Only	\$ 22,141.06

The benefit of using Ipe is no splinters (surface stays smooth), its strength, decay resistance (high-25 years plus), resistance to termites, etc. Also, the cost for the Ipe is less than that of the recycled structural plastic due mainly to the fact that the cost of the 2" X 8" plastic decking is substantially more than the 5/4" X 6" Ipe decking.

Construction time is estimated to be 16 weeks.

**3. Source of Funds**

Funding for the project will be taken from the \$1.4 million dollars that has been budgeted for the overall Shepard Park Improvements. In addition, the City has obtained a grant for \$100,000 which includes funding for boardwalk, security lighting, dune crossovers and dune restoration.

**4. Communication Plan**

Upon Commission approval, the materials supplier will be notified. In their bid, Universal Building Specialties indicated that their anticipated date of deliverables would be 2 – 3 weeks after receiving the order. Also Darrell's Docks (contractor awarded the construction bid) would be notified as to the delivery date of the materials.

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If the materials arrive by the beginning of February and Darrell's Docks can begin work immediately, then they would have until February 28 (onset of early turtle nesting season) to replace those portions of the crossovers that lie seaward of the dune line. Then, they would proceed to build the remaining portions of the crossovers and the boardwalk that lie west of the crest of the dune during turtle nesting season (May 1 – October 31). Per the Department of Environmental Protection's requirement, the boardwalk is located 30' west of the crest of the dune.

**5. Staff Representative**

Bob Torres, Public Works Director will be present at the Commission meeting to make the presentation and answer any questions.

**6. Staff Recommendation**

City staff recommends that Alternative A, all Ipe wood (except the pressure treated wood pilings), be used as the boardwalk and dune crossover material, at a cost of \$128,981.72.

**7. Recommended Motion**

I move to approve the award of materials for Bid No. CB 05 - 001 Alan Shepard Park Phase 1 Improvements to Universal Building Specialties for Alternative A (wood) in the amount of \$128,981.72