

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council
From: Tom Baker, Town Administrator
Date: December 6, 2016
Re: GOCO Grant Support: Liberty Classical Academy

Purpose: The purpose of this item is to consider support for Liberty Classical Academy's GOCO Grant for construction of a playground at the west end of the Talbott Trail.

Background and Discussion: Liberty Classical Academy (LCA) has been part of the GOCO Inspire initiative that the Town (Debbie Nichols) and LiveWell (now Garfield Healthy Communities Coalition) have been working on for the past year. Included in the Inspire initiative is the creation of facilities that encourage youth activity, such as parks and playgrounds. LCA is requesting support from the town in several ways:

1. The Town to be the Fiscal Agent (LCA needs a governmental entity to accept funds and pass them to LCA for this project – Finance Department will provide expenditure oversight)
2. Financial support – LCA needs a \$25k match. \$15k of the \$25k can be in-kind services, but \$10k needs to be cash. LCA requests \$3k from the town to help them begin a fundraising effort for the \$10k cash portion of the match.

Financial Implications: Staff recommends the Town pursue a \$5,000 Garfield Healthy Communities Coalition (formerly LiveWell) mini-grant for this project in 2017. The risk we run is that we do not receive the mini-grant and then need to fund this project from the General Fund.

Recommendation: Unlike the school district, LCA is not eligible for GFMLD funding and therefore staff feel the Council could approve this request. Additionally, the Apple Tree Community and school children will greatly benefit from a new/improved playground.

Attachment: Letter from Renee Miller, Head of School, Liberty Classical Academy



LIBERTY

CLASSICAL ACADEMY

November 23, 2016

Dear New Castle City Council,

Liberty Classical Academy would like to apply for a GOCO Playground Grant for \$110,000.00 to upgrade the playground areas near our school. This would benefit the Mountain Shadow Community, Apple Tree Park, LCA Students and New Castle Residents. The playgrounds would be accessible from the end of the Grand River Park Trail that connects New Castle to Apple Tree and be ADA compliant.

The grant requires LCA to work in conjunction with a municipal entity in the application process as a pass-through agency. We also need \$15,000 of in-kind donations and \$10,000 cash. We are asking that the town of New Castle partner with us by being the pass-through agency and consider a cash donation for half of the money required. TEI and LCA Community can provide much of the in-kind funds.

Sincerely,

Renee Miller, Director
Liberty Classical Academy