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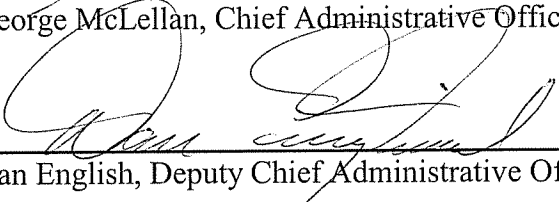
Halifax Regional Council
January 13, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer



Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 9, 2004

SUBJECT: Award RFP #03-341, Juan Clean Up - Forestry Remediation -Point Pleasant Park - Unit Price Contract

ORIGIN

The Halifax Regional Municipality publicly advertised request for proposals on December 10, 2003 for proposals to conduct a forestry damage remediation program to deal with hurricane damage incurred in Point Pleasant Park.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that RFP # 03-341, Juan Clean Up - Forestry Remediation - Point Pleasant Park be awarded to the highest ranking evaluated proposal, Asplundh Tree Service Inc., at the unit prices quoted for an estimated cost of \$ 2,150,000.00 plus net HST for a total estimated cost of \$ 2,288,223.50 from Hurricane Juan Account - PJUAN -079 -W928, with funding authorized as per the Budget Implications section of this report.

BACKGROUND

Point Pleasant Park consists of 186 acres of parkland at the entrance to the inner portion of Halifax Harbour. It is HRM's most visited and one of the most well recognized parks, within HRM. The property was granted in a 999 year lease from Queen Victoria in 1866.

Hurricane Juan hit HRM on September 29, 2003 as the largest storm to ravage the province in one hundred years. Point Pleasant Park was one of the hardest hit and most heavily damaged areas in the Province. More than 70 percent of the 156 acres of forested area has been lost to the storm. The park has been closed to the public since September 29, 2003. An initial damage assessment quickly identified that there are several risks associated with the amount of downed wood within the park. These include risk of fire, injury from continued falling of trees that were damaged but remain standing, increase in the population of damaging insects including the Brown Spruce Long Horn Beetle, loss of cultural elements due to tree damage and the loss of already thin soils. These risks have the potential to affect the public use, the surrounding residential area, and long term recovery of park.

The work on Point Pleasant Park has been divided into two phases,

- 1) Remediation - dealing with the acres of downed wood and damage to shoreline, pathways and cultural assets damaged by the storm.
- 2) Restoration - developing and implementing a plan to restore the park in accordance with the wishes of Citizens and stakeholders.

A team of professionals from various agencies and organizations including HRM, DNR, CFIA, Parks Canada, Dalhousie University, and Nova Scotia Field Naturalists, had been assembled to assess risk and develop an approach to the remediation phase. The goal of remediation is to mitigate short term risks while protecting the ability to restore the park over the longer term. To this end, investigation and mapping has taken place to catalogue soils, vegetation, and cultural assets of the park as well as to indicate risk of fire, insect population increase, etc. This information will be used to guide remediation of the park. A late spring re-opening is the present target; however, that is wholly dependent on the progress of the remediation and will have to be revisited through the winter. The Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee has endorsed this general approach.

DISCUSSION

Terms of reference setting the scope of work were prepared and a request for proposal was advertised in the local newspaper and closed on December 29, 2003, for proposals to conduct an environmentally responsible forestry remediation program for the hurricane damage to Point Pleasant Park to be complete prior to spring forest fire season. A mandatory site meeting was held in the park on December 16, 2003, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm to provide proponents a first hand opportunity to inspect the extent of damage caused by Hurricane Juan. The scope of the work includes the following deliverables:

- 1 To develop and execute a forest damage remediation plan that in general removes the broken, leaning, up rooted, downed and damaged trees within Point Pleasant Park. The operation will be under direction of an HRM Project Supervisor with technical support and assistance from a Registered Professional Forester and an Archeologist. The tree extraction work will be conducted in accordance with the technical guidelines, details, constraints and stipulations contained in the RFP as well as relevant industry practices.
- 2 To develop and execute a work plan that includes a multi-faceted approach (i.e. various mechanical and manual methods) that has the flexibility to respond to such factors as weather, changes in constraints due to cultural artifacts, environmentally sensitive areas, best industry practices, CFIA requirements and the Special Places Act. The work plan shall identify suitable and sufficient resources (both equipment and qualified and experienced staff) that will allow the park to re-open to the public in a timely manner. The target for park re-opening is late spring 2004.
- 3 To identify, develop, and execute environmentally responsible strategies that deals with the excess bio-mass / wood fibre product that cannot remain within the forest environment. Note - good science and proper forest rehabilitation practices will determine the amount and state of biomass to be left within the park.
- 4 To provide daily progress reports and other documentation as required to meet disaster relief criteria.

Proposals were received from the following consultants:

Asplundh Tree Service Inc.
R. MacLean Forestry Limited
The Point Pleasant Park Tree Recovery Consortium
Young Forest Improvements Ltd.

An evaluation team consisting of staff of Real Property and Asset Management (Real Property Planning and Parks and Open Spaces), other members of the Point Pleasant Park Remediation Task Force, and Procurement evaluated the proposal on the following basis:

- Project Team
- Related Experience - Projects of a Similar Nature, Scope and Complexity
- Project Objectives and Associated Issues
- Resourcing, Work Plan and Scheduling
- Costs

Preliminary evaluation of the submissions saw two very strong proposals that were extremely close in scoring. Interviews were conducted with the top two proponents as part of the evaluation process in order to determine which was the best overall proposal.

The final scoring for each firm is as follows:

Company	Scoring (max. 100)
Asplundh Tree Service Inc.	90
R. MacLean Forestry Limited	87
The Point Pleasant Park Tree Recovery Consortium	63
Young Forest Imp.*	27

Appendix "A" provides the detailed breakdown of the total scoring and fees. The project cost is an estimated project cost based upon unit prices provided and the proponents work plan and not lump sum.

The evaluating team is recommending the highest scoring firm as the successful proponent based on the following merits that made it the best overall proposal:

- firms experience, history and success associated with previous work efforts in some of HRM's most recognized and visited parks including Point Pleasant Park, Sir Sanford Fleming Park, Hemlock Ravine Park and Shubie Park,
- having an existing and in-place log and wood disposal plan meeting CFIA requirements,
- having the most preferable wood, log and brush management plan (including prior experience with technology) among submitting firms,
- individual companies (comprising the team) have proven experience and success at working in joint venture on projects of similar nature, scope and complexity.

The evaluation team has asked the successful proponent, if awarded the contract, to follow up on extraordinary environmental safe guards which were offered over and above the proposal. These include changing to mineral oil based hydraulic oils and installing stop valve safety mechanisms etc. in order to safe guard against hydraulic spills which would be harmful to the park and costly to clean-up.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Budget Summary Project RFP #03-341, Juan Clean Up - Forestry Remediation - Point Pleasant Park

The total estimated cost of remediation of Point Pleasant Park is \$ 2,150,000.00 plus net HST for a total estimated cost of \$ 2,288.223.50

This work is directly associated with the clean up of Hurricane Juan and will be collected together with other Juan related costs. The cost of the Hurricane clean-up and recovery costs will be funded through a combination of insurance claims, HRM funds and funding from the Federal Disaster Financial Relief Program. Based on our present information the costs of forest remediation is eligible under Disaster Financial Relief program. However, the total exact amount of federal funding cannot be determined until after the work is complete and the application is filed and adjudicated.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation. If approved this contract may negatively impact the operating budget however , as previously reported, every effort is and will be made by staff to manage the total Hurricane Juan impact with no deficit.

ALTERNATIVES


Council could choose not to award this contract. This is not the recommended approach as the risk of fire will be extreme come spring if the park is not remediated. Cold winter weather is the best opportunity to carry out this work with minimal impact on the restoration of the park.

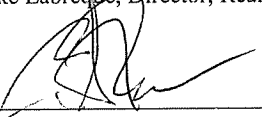
ATTACHMENTS

Appendix “A” - Summary of Evaluation Criteria

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Peter Bigelow, Manager Real Property Planning, Real Property and Asset Management
 Brian Phelan, Superintendent Parks and Open Spaces, Real Property and Asset Management

Report Approved by: 
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 Peter Ross, Manager, Procurement, Financial Services



APPENDIX A

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

RFP #03-341

Forestry Remediation- Point Pleasant Park

CRITERIA	MAX. SCORE	PROPONENT			
		Asplundh Tree Service Inc.	The Point Pleasant Park Tree Recovery Consortium	R. MacLean Forestry Limited	Young Forest Imp.
1. Project Team	20	19	14	18	5
2. Related Experience	15	15	9	13	7
3. Project Objectives and Associated Issues	25	21	10	18	5
4. Resourcing, Work Plan and Scheduling	25	21	15	23	10
5. Costing***	15	14	15	15	N/A
Estimated Project Cost (incl. net HST)		\$2,288,223.50	\$2,128,580.00	\$2,132,347.59	
TOTAL	100	90**	63	87	27*
** Recommended Proponent					
RANKING		1	3	2	4

* The score for this proposal does not include a score for costing as the technical proposal was considered unacceptable. As a result, the financial proposal was not evaluated.

*** The project costs do not include any recovery value of salvage material as these values cannot be estimated reliably.