

Supervisor Davidson

Good afternoon.

I will ultimately defer to Scott Clark regarding the ultimate legal need to bid or not as posed in your question below but I will provide you an answer as I see it from a business perspective.

Typically with landscaping, it is wise to have a sole source determination with the contractor getting the material (plants, trees and etc), also installing and maintaining the materials as a way to ensure there is 'one responsible party'. By having this arrangement, in this case, Austin Outdoor can warranty the materials installed.

Conversely, if the District secures a variety of different plant providers to supply the material and then Austin handles the installation and maintenance, it becomes very difficult to make any one entity responsible for the ultimate success or failure of the product. So if one plant provider provides poor quality plants and Austin installs those plants and they fail, Austin won't be willing to warranty the plants.

So in most instances, the Districts we manage like to make a sole source determination and work through the District's landscape contractor to ensure all the plant material that is installed out there will have a warranty. It may cost you a little extra upfront but overall the District comes out further ahead with the warranted product.

Scott since this is as much a legal issue as business issue, please weigh in with your thoughts.

Thanks Craig

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I agree with Craig's opinion. I can't think of a situation where we have had a district get plant materials from one provider and have another either install or just maintain it. Nobody is willing to provide a warranty. It would be my suggestion that the board make a "sole source" determination on this one.

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From: Dr. Stephen Davidson [mailto:steve4cdd@cfl.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 2:54 PM
To: Craig Wrathell
Cc: Daphne Gillyard
Subject: GH Landscape Renovation and Rejuvenation Project

Good Afternoon Craig,

Could you please provide guidance on the issue of the GH BOS bid policy in reference to the Landscape Renovation and Rejuvenation Program?

A review of the Minutes of the April 15, 2010 Regular Meeting indicates that the BOS approved 5-0 landscape upgrade proposals totalling \$34,097.

Thanks!

Dr. Steve Davidson
as Horticulture Consultant Liaison
GH BOS