

MEMO

TO: Municipal Services Committee

FROM: Dean Gazza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

DATE: June 15, 2022

SUBJECT: Request from Appleton Downtown, Inc. for a waiver to allow dumpsters to be placed within city-owned property without the required dumpster enclosure.

Many questions were raised during the June 1, 2022, Municipal Services Committee meeting pertaining to the request by ADI for dumpsters in Jones Park. I have also added a couple of other questions to help clarify the placement and usage of dumpsters in parks. Please see questions and answers below:

Why isn't there a dumpster in Jones Park? The park does not generate enough waste to warrant the cost of a dumpster. Not every park in the city has a dumpster. They have been strategically placed throughout limited parks for the parks maintenance staff to pick-up and drop off trash from other parks, as well as trails, etc. It would not be feasible to build a dumpster enclosure and pay for monthly waste removal services at every park. Dumpsters are for City use only and not offered to the public or for special events.

Are special events responsible for their own waste removal? Yes, the Special Events Manual states that dumpsters and recycling bins are not provided by the city and that the event sponsor is responsible for these, including litter control before, during and after the event.

Special events that occur in City Park (Art in the Park & Sole burner), Pierce Park (Car Show), Appleton Memorial Park (Jaycee Fireworks) and Jones Park (Hmong American Day, Juneteenth, Irish Fest & Mile of Music), as well as other events, supply their own dumpsters regardless if a dumpster currently exists within the park.

The request notes that the monies spent by ADI could be used towards other public events. Possibly, but it is important to remember that if the city pays for the dumpster and the monthly services that this is money that could go to other priorities also. The city does not have an opportunity to recover these costs through sales of beverages for example, whereas the event organizer can build this cost into the event as they would for any other costs incurred to hold the event. Taxpayers should not be required to pay for operations costs for event organizers to hold special events.

The request was to place the dumpsters in the parking lot. Is this location supported by Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management? No, when the parking lot was constructed, there was significant concern about limited parking areas. This parking not only serves Jones Park, but also is located along the Hydroelectric Heritage Parkway. Utilizing three parking stalls is a significant reduction in an already small parking lot. With the construction of the Ellen Kort Peace Park trail this year, the Jones parking lot will serve as a trail head also. In addition, dumpsters are dirty and site plan reviews recommend they be in a location that can be well hidden. Despite screening they smell, have liquids running from them, and often result in additional litter around them. This location requested is at the entry to the park which is not an ideal location.

Overall, this request not only would require a variance to the dumpster enclosure requirements (Municipal Code Section 23-47), but also a variance to the Special Events policy. Second, it would require additional budget for the construction as well as the on-going cost for the weekly waste pick-up. We agree it is a convenience issue for ADI, but do not believe it is a need for the park or community.