

## Item 23-0100: Park Projects Updates

### Parks and Recreation Committee

Mon, Feb 06, 2023 6:30PM

#### **Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 08:34**

Moving on to 23-0100. Parks Projects update

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 08:41**

We have several projects in different phases. Lutz Park right now currently getting design completed. The idea is to extend the trail. We had it up to the Yacht Club, and then we want to get it up to Alicia Park. And so, there's that extension through the park and right now it drops down to a sidewalk along the water. So, there was a couple of concepts of keeping the trail down by the water, bringing it up by the road. And when you get by the water though, if you're going by with a bike, and there's no railing, it can get a little dangerous. So, the thought was, for safety reasons, bring the trail up off the water and then for people walking, it could continue to walk along the water. So, in the midst of getting that done and getting a budget so we can accurately reflect that in a future CIP.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 09:34**

Between the Yacht Club and Vulcan heritage, we have a feasibility study. We did an RFQ for qualifications to find a firm that would be able to let us know if it's even going to be possible. At one time there was an idea of bringing a boardwalk between those two. And that boardwalk was going to be tied right into the embankment which is not—the railroad is not interested in doing that. So, it ended up being a piered boardwalk into the water. So, the feasibility study is with Army Corps of Engineers, the DNR, and numerous others to determine what is all required, and then come up with a budget estimate.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 10:20**

Along the same lines down the river, Neenah Papers when they sold, naturally, the bridge going across was, you know, put on hold. We're hoping to make recontact with that. And John Bergstrom had contacted us and asked us if we needed some assistance in making some contact because he was familiar with some of the new people or somebody over there. And so, we're hopeful that he can find the person that we need to talk to. Because we still have the \$500,000 waiting at the Community Foundation, and another \$300,000 with the County. So, \$800,000. It'll cost more than that, but with that amount of contribution upfront, it'd be a good start to getting that done.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:07**

Telulah Park. That was at finance committee tonight. That takes—you know, the road that comes from upper Telulah that winds down, goes down by the docks and then goes over then back towards the hotel, where we finished the improvements on lower Telulah, that area is just an old road right now. That would be redone, the hardscape on there. And so that would be upgraded. So we're looking at, you know, forward with that being rebid out, that would be done this year yet. At Telulah, previously approved, the bathroom facilities will be upgraded and it'll include a family bathroom in there. So that'll be a nice upgrade.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:52**

Lundgaard Park. We had our first kickoff meeting for the design of the civil work and the utility work. In addition to we're hoping the budget will accommodate some of the amenities like the pickleball courts, the basketball

courts, and a playground. And we continue to solicit for funding. There has been firms that have said yes. We're waiting to determine the amount and to solidify a couple potential don—donations.

**Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 12:31**

You said that some firms have said Yes.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:33**

Yes.

**Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 12:33**

Have any have said no?

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:38**

Yeah, we did. We had one that said, at this time, they weren't interested in it. Probably better I don't mention their name. Because it's not, you know, it's nothing—a lot of times it's not to do with that they're not wanting to be part of giving to the community because these places do in many ways. And that's why we reach out to them. It's just that the specific project doesn't fit their specific goals for that year, or lineup specifically, and they try to share. So.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 13:14**

And then Ellen Kort Park, we continually work on that. The lighting, the lighting fixtures—I'm trying to think if they all went up, or they were just waiting, I think for spring to go up. Yeah. So, Tom had indicated and then the assault monument that was approved would go in later in the spring also. So yeah. So that's yeah, basically what's happening in the park.

**Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 13:43**

Any question? Alderson Schultz.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 13:46**

Thank you, Chair. I'm just gonna start from Alicia and work my way eastward. A couple of questions. Help me understand what the connection—the bicycle connection you were talking about, trail rework between Alicia and Lutz looks like. So, Lutz you have the trail that kind of winds down the water, there's the pier that goes out, and then it just kind of dead ends at that water monitoring station. So, is there then this notion that we're going to extend—come off of that, basically, end of that and work it up to the roadway to get up to Alicia or what?

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:17**

Yeah, it would come down the hill through the sidewalk. Or is that? I'm trying to think what Eric did there. Think that sidewalk was widened in that area when they redid that retaining wall?

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 14:30**

I believe so.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:31**

I'm almost positive that portion of it. I'm trying to—I'm getting confused with the one on the other side. But that connection is done through DPW. It's getting out from that bottom of the hill over to...

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 14:43**

So as soon as you hit the park proper coming up the hill, you're gonna you're gonna work through the park,

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:47**

And then you're gonna go straight along the road—not on the road, but in park in park property.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 14:51**

Okay, all the way up and to connect to the trail to the Lutz or to the Vulcan Heritage

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:56**

And then you'll be able to go up to you know, piers.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 14:58**

Okay. I'd be interesting to see that plan. When we're talking about the connection from basically the Yacht Club to Vulcan Heritage, and knowing what you know about where that piered system or piered—what a boardwalk for lack of a better term is gonna go. Is there any conflict with the property ownership that we're gonna have to maneuver with—the Yacht Club? Or is everything that we need, basically to pull that off on city property?

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 15:24**

Yeah, we should be good.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 15:25**

Okay. Do you have a sense of timeline for what that's going to take with permitting to the DNR? We're talking a couple of years to get this.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 15:32**

Yeah, that one is in line with other projects. That one would be out there at the five year or a little bit further.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 15:38**

Okay.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 15:39**

But at least we would have an indication of if it's feasible and what the proximate cost would be.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 15:44**

Okay. We get across. We're at Vulcan. We move our way over to the Peace Park. I think we're all curious to know where we are in the conversation with the Trout. What is their expectation for giving us an update? I'm sure you've been asked the question previously.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:01**

Yeah. Alderman Croatt asked last time, and the mayor planned on providing an update. Basically, yeah. There—I have not heard anything personally. So, I don't know what the update would be.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 16:15**

Okay, we're good. Now. The Rita Nelson. That crossing that property that we're talking about that the Paper Company owned? That's by Pullmans? Is that part—or is that between Pullmans and the WE Energies? What—is that simply that little chunk of landing that

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:31**

It would land on actually Pullman's land.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 16:33**

Okay.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:34**

In this case, yeah.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 16:35**

So, what is the—what is the—I guess I'm confused about that chunk of property with that the paper company owns. Is that

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:41**

They own...

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 16:41**

the stuff over the water—that little...

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:42**

No. They own the water rights. So, anything you do over the water, in the water is their permission. And so, there's a permit that they have to open a file and then have it updated with that in it.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 16:56**

Okay, that helps to know. Thinking. I think that might be it for going in that general direction. Appreciate the update on Telulah. It's good to know that we're getting some more soft scaping along that roadway. Was a great addition. And I think getting that traffic from below up to the park is pretty fantastic. So, kudos on everything. Maybe lastly, can you give me a sense of the timing for the Arbutus Park project when—I don't remember exactly when that might be coming forward for.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 17:24**

That keeps getting bumped back as the CIP plan kind of was, you know, extended to match up with city's [indecipherable] on projects. That one is one that we keep talking about, and we're hopeful that would be a grant opportunity, something that could be triggered through the downtown, because that—with all the new housing units, there's going to be we're going to just get more calls and more interest for having, you know, some kind of rural dog park.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 17:57**

Okay, thank you. Appreciate all the back and forth.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 18:00**

I should add on Telulah one more thing, if you get asked by any. We're waiting for the ground to freeze in order to bring in the truck to put up the lights on the pickleball courts. And as you know, it's been a pretty mild winter so the ground never totally froze. So now we're re-strategizing because it's going to warm up again. So, the idea is to get lights there. Planning on getting a drinking fountain put there this summer. And then trying to think—oh there's some furniture.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 18:32**

Oh, one more. One more. At Erb Park. We had met with the Hmong community several occasions about outdoor volleyball and having volleyball court on the grass. And as it gets later in the night, a lot of times what they

would do is play on tennis courts in order to get lighting. So, they had asked if we could do something with lighting within the park and dedicate an area for that. And so that's in the works also to have that light installed early in the year.

**Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 19:05**

Alderson Del Toro.

**Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 19:07**

Regarding the Ellen Kort Peace Park, have you had any conversations or heard anything from the Trout Museum regarding what they are doing in terms of outreach and education? It seems like since the last time we heard—brought up this issue, I personally wanted to see them invest more in communication with the community and seeing if they, you know, could really win over the community. What I'm seeing in my inbox and from my community—my conversations with community members is there's still largely opposition for the park. Without that changing, come the next possible stoppage for the project. I can't see myself continuing to support that exploration. Having said that, it—you know that they've had a few months now to sort of strategize and see if there's any sort of outreach and communication. Have you heard anything from their part?

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 20:02**

No, I have not had one conversation with one member. Not an email, not a phone call. Not a voice conversation.

**Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 20:10**

Dead silence? That makes it easy for me. Thank you.

**Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 20:19**

Just to reiterate something [indiscipherable] because I know a lot of people are watching, For more information on the Peace Kort—Ellen Kort Peace Park, the mayor will be getting more information next Wednesday at 7pm in this room. Is there any further discussion? Thank you.