

Item 23-0426: Lundgaard Park Update

Parks and Recreation Committee

Mon, Apr 24, 2023 6:30PM

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 11:59

Information items 23-0426 Lundgaard Park update.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:06

Thank you chair. Two items. Well, first item being Lundgaard Park. As you know, we've been working on—well, this this particular committee, some of the some of the previous members had approved a contract to move forward with the design of Lundgaard Park for what we considered phase one. And that would be basically to topography the site, the utilities, and putting in some hopefully the playground if the budget allows and the [indecipherable] courts. That way, it's a park, people can go to it.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:41

In the meantime, we are out seeking donations for the park. And as Mayor Woodford alluded to, that it was our desire that the city would put to put the first 2 million forward, and then the balance would be raised through donations.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:59

I can't publicly announce anything at the moment, but there has been good momentum. There has been visits, I would say, by companies to look at the site and have—they have, I guess, give us their intention that they are going to do something and would like to be part of the project just because of what the project means and just the significance of the project. And also got some word back on some courts too that might be some interest in donating to.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 13:32

So, we're hoping in the near term to get some announcements—commitments so we can make some announcements. And then Fire—Friends of the Fire Department are gonna kick off the actual fundraising campaign. If you go on the Friends of Appleton Fire Department right now. It is posted, images, videos, and so forth, and which will be used for the campaign, kind of a kind of a soft rollout. But once the actual campaign kickoff happens, there'll be press releases, and the Fire Department will be available for, you know, comment regarding that. But we're pretty excited about that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:09

What we're looking at doing is for that initial Phase One having contracts bidding this summer and contracts [indecipherable] out in August or September. So, you'd see some earth movement and some utilities and drainage going in, some underground piping and some of the preliminary stuff that's needed to do the above ground improvements.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 14:30

Great. Any questions? Aldersperson Hartzheim?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 14:36

Thank you, Chair. Might I direct my questions to the director?

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 14:39

You may.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 14:40

Thank you. Director Gazza, you mentioned two things: one, that things are starting to roll as far as fundraising. Am I able to link—as the alderperson for this district where the park is located, am I able to link to that Fire Department page or would the Fire Department and the Parks and Rec Department prefer that the real rollout happens before we get to that point? What? What would you suggest that I do to get more public attention to this as the alderperson for that district?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 15:12

Definitely. I think, you know, notifying or letting people know that this was coming around the corner, and saying that there's going to be an announcement for a public campaign to raise money for the park to build some excitement. I think it would be better, possibly after the campaign is launched. But on other hand, the site—if somebody stumbled across the site or went on the site. Right now, if a person wanted to donate, I believe using, like a mechanism like Venmo, they would be able to enter money at this time.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 15:46

Thank you. And then the other thing that I'm not sure that I got from what you earlier stated, are their public displays of what the park is intended to look like? Is that included on this particular website on the fire department page?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:02

Yes, definitely. Still images. There's a flyover. And then there's a video that was done with the Fire Department speaking about the purpose of the park and what the park means and what it means to them and Mitch and the family.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 16:19

Excellent. Thank you. There is a lot of groundswell of, "Hey, what's happening there?" and getting excited about it. So, I want to sort of piggyback on that. Thank you very much.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:27

Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 16:28

Alderson Wolff.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 16:30

Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair. Just to jump on one note. So, in my conversation with Chief Hansen, he did mention that he, like most of the fundraising will happen after they find their big donor, which Dean alluded to, who I will not mention, because he did not. But he mentioned that they wanted to make their big pushes after the announcement there, just to kind of help you out there.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 17:02

And then my question for you, sir, is we left some notes with the person who came in to talk about the park. Were those notes adapted or were, like, some of them taken into consideration and some of them not?

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

The...?

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 17:18

So, like for the actual memorial statue, I brought up maybe having a noise drowning system there, so that people could just sit there in quiet and not listen to like traffic go by? Is that something we're doing in the park still?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 17:34

Yeah, that that part of it, that actual art component, or the memorial itself is a separate piece that would be worked on. So, this piece of the project allows for it, puts the foundation in the location. And then when the Fire Department would hire somebody specific, other than just an architect, somebody that's in the who could design that art and create that art. When they work with that type of engineer designer, then at that time, all those things would be considered, and I'm sure they'd be seeking input.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 17:38

Okay. Thank you.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 17:47

Any other questions? Yes.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 18:11

May ask Director Garza. Are you saying we shouldn't share the fire department link now? Or should we wait until at the public launch?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 18:20

No, what you could do is you could definitely it's—we're fine with sharing it, and that's why we left it out there. It—I think it does build some excitement and let people know it's coming. But just to let people know that the major kickoff for the launch will be in the near future, basically.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 18:38

Any other questions?