

Item 23-0460: Dance Studios Update

Parks and Recreation Committee

Mon, Apr 24, 2023 6:30PM

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 18:41

Dance 23-0460 Dance Studio Update.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 18:47

Yes. At Finance Committee, I talked about this. We are possibly having to relocate the dance studios that are in the City Center of this building. There's a development that's been proposed, and the city is working on a development agreement to, regarding that. And part of that include—would require us to move. So, with that we were looking at the Northland Mall. So, at the Finance Committee, we brought forward the request to enter into a lease with the Northland Mall if this project would move forward in City Center, just to be proactive, rather than rather than wait to see if that happens. We—it takes a lot of time quite a bit of time to research and find locations that would be conducive to meet the needs of the for the program. In addition to things like transportation and conne—connection through our **[I couldn't figure out what he said.]** fiber and things like that. Finding the right amount of square footage and being in an area that we're comfortable with for families to come with young kids, whether, you know accessibility for parking also and safety. So, we did bring that forward, and there is a possibility then that that would be relocated from here to that Northland Mall.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 20:16

Any questions? Yes.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 20:19

Thank you, Chair. May I direct—may ask Director Garza? Can you tell us, do you know what the proposed development at Century—Center City is that might replace the dance studio?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 20:30

I cannot speak to that at this time. Yeah. It's actually something that would be part of a meeting possibly down the road that you guys would come to.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 20:42

Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 20:43

Alderson Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 20:44

Yeah, just on the subject of relocation and potential relocation sites, what other—are there other sites that you investigated closer to the downtown corridor that just didn't work out?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 20:44

Yeah.

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Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 20:57

Northland feels a little bit far afield from the central Appleton. I don't—I think it will work, but I'm just curious to know what other...

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 21:06

Yeah. To find the square footage needed. We contacted several developers—I mean, several brokers. They sent us their information, I think four of them, and then we went and visited sites, and a lot of sites are not as conducive from trying to get the right amount of space, not get too much space, but have enough space, and have the other, you know, necessities like parking and bus routes and so forth.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 21:35

One of the larger complaints that we were facing was the fact that people were struggling, because the space was on the second floor. And without the blue ramp, at the times they come and leave, it's very challenging for them because a lot of times they're coming in at around 3:30 and four o'clock so everybody's still here. And then when they leave, a lot of times, it can be 9 - 9:30 at night, which is a little bit more challenging. And then to pay the ramp fees every day, that was also a problem with our part time staff. Were we going to buy them, you know, parking passes, and incur that for them to work for us? So, we avoided a lot of those issues. And being that this was coming out and coming to this, what we've heard so far is people were excited with the location.

Alderman Alex Schultz (District 9) 22:28

So, the Northland Mall wouldn't have any parking fees, I assume because...

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 22:31

Nope

Alderman Nate Wolff (District 12) 22:32

There's an empty building, Shopko. So, they have plenty parking.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 22:44

Yes?

Alderman Nate Wolff (District 12) 22:46

I actually think this is a good idea. I think that it would bring more people to that area, which is definitely needed, especially with the businesses, kind of, going out of business. So, I appreciate that we went out there to try to get people out there.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 23:05

And I think there's some excitement. So, one of the concerns when we first went there was that, yeah, there was a lack of—a lot of vacancy. But then when we, when we talked to the landlord, we start talking about, you know, well Kohl's is right there. We'd be right next to Kohl's in the interior space. But some of the restaurants are coming back, and there's some plans for putting the couple of restaurants in the parking lot. And so, it seems like interest is coming back. Not so much for shop, the Shopko piece of it, but the rest of the mall. So, we're hoping that it'll become full of life and that, you know, we can be part of that.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 23:44

Yes.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 23:45

Another nice thing is that the people using that won't have to deal with our elevator locking them out. Which I just wanted to bring up because that happened the other week again, and, yeah, there were two very scared children in the elevator.

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 24:03

Stuck with two very scary alderpeople.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 24:05

Yeah.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 24:07

All right. Any other comments, questions? If not, leads us to number eight.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 24:15

Motion to adjourn.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 24:16

Second.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 24:17

Motion's made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Five zero. We're adjourned. Thank you, everybody.

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 24:26

Thank you