

Item 24-0125: Request to accept funding to install a Kayak Launch at Telulah Park

Finance Committee

Mon, Feb 26, 2024, 5:30PM

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:50

24-0125 request to accept funding to install a kayak launch at Telulah Park along with the following 2024 budget amendments.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 08:00

Move to approve.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 08:01

Second. I wasn't there. Sorry.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 08:04

Thank you. All right. So we have a motion in a second on the item. I'm sure there are some questions. So go ahead Alder Hartzheim, if you want to start off, or Director Gazza did you just want to...?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 08:14

Well, sorry, I couldn't be here last week to go through this. And I didn't go through every detail with Deputy Director Flick, so he was knowledgeable about this, but did not know every answer. I had worked with the attorney's office to work out the agreement, modify language, and get it to the point where we are comfortable with moving forward. But he did make me aware of the questions that were asked, and hopefully I captured them appropriately. But if there are any questions on here that were missed, you know, here tonight and can answer anything you might have.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 08:58

Alder Hartzheim.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 08:59

Thank you, chair. The one question I did have was that your original memo director Gaza said, the kay—the cost of the kayaks and the racks is such and such, but then later you followed up with "we are not purchasing the kayaks." So I'm confused. Are we or are we not going to be owners, proud owners of kayaks in the city?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 09:20

That is a great—that was a great point when I when I wrote that I should have caught myself. No, it's a service. It's a service where they provide the racks, the kayaks, they come in once weekly to inspect them. Up and down the valley, they'll have six installations. So they have a part time person that visits them. Anytime they get a complaint to via them—via their app that they utilize they'll address it also. They're the ones that deal with you know, things like money refunds or things like that. But overall, though, at the end of the five years, we don't own anything. But if we continue the service then we don't have this activation fee again. So this initial activation fee, we would not have that, and we would just continue, where we get the 60% of the revenue, they get the 40%. And hopefully it would be successful and, you know, as we anticipate it to be in that, you know, we'll continue this, and it'll be a good partnership to do this.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 10:23

I think what's kind of unique about this one, rather than being us being independent, doing this on our own, this was something that visitors and convention bureau had indicated that was a need in the area, and they were hoping that they could get all communities to kind of do this along the river, and do it in a uniform rate—way with the same cost, the same hours, the same everything. So people who became accustomed to using it one place could use it in another. So once that was a—they've added it, vetted the company, did some references as far as the two that are on, Lake Butte des Morts—yeah, Butte des, is it? Butte des Morts. Yeah. They then felt comfortable enough that they would put the half of the money forward if the communities are willing to put the other half.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 11:17

Excellent. Just a logistics clarification, is—do you know, is this program available so if you're up river, and you rent at one facility, which might not be the Appleton facility, and you come to the Telulah Park facility, can you then launch—er dock that kayak there and be done with your excursion? Is that how that might work?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:40

Yeah, it isn't the intent, but I'll tell you that—

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 11:43

Probably will.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:45

—that would be the best way of doing it. And then that the—and I'll check into that, because the person that's going to be checking on it weekly could be the person that returns them.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 11:54

Exactly.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:55

Yeah, that would be ideal.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 11:58

Because otherwise you have to have some sort of trailer to be able to get it back to the Telulah launch and return it. So that's—

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:05

Go upstream ain't fun.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 12:06

Exactly. No, it is not, indeed, and I've tried. The other question I have, and it might be for Attorney Behrens, more than anyone else with the—might—does this need to be amended, or should this possibly be amended to say, "contingent upon approval by the Legal Services Department"? Or is that just assumed in the accepting of this particular product or item?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 12:33

Mic number, Attorney, Behrens, please. Oh, sorry. Yeah. Sorry, your mic number, please. Which, what number do you have? Director Three? All right, thank you.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 12:48

You would be putting that contingency on most things that come through and get voted on. Any kind of agreement, contract, anything of that nature, is gonna go through our office for review and discussion. And one of my staff has already been working on as director has indicated.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 13:06

So it's not necessary. Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 13:10

All right. All set? All right, just a follow-up on your questions about the being able to use at different locations. That's one that I had also received. My district is pretty close—has a border along the river. So I've received some feedback from folks that live along the river and said, "Hey, we've had to help people out that, you know, overestimated the amount of effort it was going to take to go back against the current." So especially with the potential for some of these users to be very novice, that's one concern that I've heard. So that—that's good to hear that that might be the possibility because it's a heck of a lot easier to get an Uber to go back upstream than probably to paddle all the way from like, say, Sunset Park back to Telulah Park.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 13:52

Another question that was asked was, would there be any sort of like time lock or anything on these? 'Cause, obviously, kind of like with some of the other like rentable vehicles around here, there's a certain time of the day where people make a little bit worse decisions, and definitely don't want somebody who's maybe had a late night out go start or take a kayak ride after dark, maybe.

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

Yeah, the intent would be dusk to dawn, that they wouldn't be rented after particular time. And one of the things I wanted to work with him on is that, you know, dawn can be different times throughout the summer.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 14:27

Right.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:27

And so we have to figure out is that operating off of some kind of phone app that tells you when, you know, dusk to dawn is? Or is that just a set time? But that was a—that was the intent because we don't want people operating it in in the middle of the night or anything like that.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 14:47

Okay, that was that was one I was like, that makes sense, but I didn't know, so I wanted to bring that up here. So thank you.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:53

Um, one thing I would note is this is probably been other than pickleball and now that we're managing, you know, that is getting, being able to be delivered to the community, this one was probably the second most people that, you know, indicate that they don't have the ability to trailer any a kayak, or would they want to carry it a mile to the river. So having something at the river would be ideal. And being that now we got the beautiful kayak launch right down here in Telulah if it works, and also then if it worked someday, who knows, it might be something that we'd want to do at Lutz things, or in another location.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 15:38

Alder Van Zeeland.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 15:39

Thank you, Chair. Is there any—I don't want to say trial, but if we get into this and a few months down the road, this isn't working for us, what does that look like for us? What is what are we out?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 15:53

Yeah, there's a there's a 30 day out. And then it would have to be, I think, a negotiation. There is nothing that we have specified to say that we'd get 90% back, 80% back, because they are making that investment. So there is a little bit of you know—there is risk with that, without a doubt. Hopefully they could repurpose it to another location if that were the case. But, you know, knowing that it's been successful in other locations gives us the confidence that it will be here.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 16:26

Do we have a plan of when this would be installed so that we could ensure this is during a peak time when many people are using it?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:35

So the visitors and convention Bureau was hoping that the company could do the installations in May. And then they could schedule a ribbon cutting for of all four of them together.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 16:47

Oh, okay. Thank you.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:49

Yep.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 16:50

All right. Anyone else? Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? I think Alder Croatt, the video feed is froze. So

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 17:03

Yeah, he's frozen.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 17:07

If you can still hear us. Well, you can give us a verbal vote, but I think we've lost you lost you. So

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 17:12

Sure.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 17:12

Here we go.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 17:12

He might have been online for more than an hour so he might have timed out on his—

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 17:12

Okay. Let's see. We'll just give it one—oh five more seconds.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 17:15

Do you see him back?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 17:30

All right. We'll just record that vote as three ayes. No nays. No abstentions. So that still passes.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 17:37

—here. I voted aye.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 17:38

Okay. Oh, there he is. All right. We'll,

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 17:41

Just under the wire.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 17:42

We will count that as four ayes, and it still passes. So we're all good there.