

## Item 24-0398: Park Project Updates

### Parks and Recreation Committee

Mon, Apr 08, 2024, 6:15PM

#### **Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 04:37**

Which leads us to information items 24-0398 Park project updates. Mr. Gazza.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 04:45**

Yes, thank you. I wanted to update you on a myriad—a list of projects here that are going on that we've talked about or either you approved contracts or they were approved at finance committee. But I think it's—sometimes we forget how many things are we're trying to juggle at one time.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 05:02**

But like Lutz Park, we're doing the shoreline erosion restoration and trail project. The design is complete. We're working on permits, scheduled for bidding in late April, and then we hope to do that work. But that will provide a trail through the park along the road, versus the bikes having to use the same sidewalk that the bikers and pedestrian walkers are using. And if you're in that area, if you were to slip on your bike, you would end up in water pretty easily because there is no barricade there. So, with the DNR and the requirements we'll require more of a shoreline like we did down at the Yacht Club.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 05:47**

Miracle League Field surface reconstruction will be completed in June. Goodwill paid 100% of that costs.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 05:54**

The Lundgaard Park Development—if you had been out there, you saw the concrete trails, the sport courts. Everything was done except for what we couldn't do in cold weather. So, like the coding on the pickleball courts and the playground—so the playground is going in, the rubberized surface in the playground for that. So, it'll be a very usable park. We did get that large donation towards the pavilion, and we are finalizing a pavilion design or a concept just to get costing before we ever finalized design and go out for bid. But as you can imagine costs are continue to escalate. So, we're concerned about that. So might need some additional funding before we can actually go out for bid for the actual pavilion. But we're close.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 06:44**

The boardwalk from the Yacht Club to Vulcan heritage—we're in the middle of that feasibility study. But with the boardwalk extending into the water, you can imagine to DNR, the railroad, Corps of Engineers, and so forth, all have something to say about that. And the railroad being one of the toughest of them. So, we're working through that.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 07:05**

We'll update the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan by the end of the year. That's required to be updated every five years, otherwise, we cannot apply for DNR grants. So, we've been lucky there.

#### **Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 07:20**

And then the Appleton Conservancy Master Plan, we're hoping to be done by July of 24—basically a concept, looking at the looking at the property, looking at a way we can do some natural trails through there. That way it's a little bit more usable for individuals, and we we've been working with, you know, other—like the land trust

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representatives and so forth are eager to be part of it in that they can have events like cleanup events and certain things there.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 07:54**

Peabody Park roadway's getting repaved. That will start this month. What else did I have a note on?

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 08:01**

And then the Telulah large pavilion is getting paint, kitchen renovations, and ADA upgrades. So that's the work we'll be doing basically throughout the parks for the this year.

**Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 08:16**

Aldersperson Schultz.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:18**

Thank you, chair. I always like to pick your brain a little bit when we have these meetings. So, I'll just like pick one project at a time. So, the Lutz improvement and I guess the boardwalk between Lutz and Vulcan heritage, could you give us some sense of, I guess, challenges for getting that moved forward with both the DNR and the railroad company, like just for the benefit of the committee here and maybe the community understanding the many challenges getting that to a point where we can actually put a request for a proposal and move forward.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 08:55**

For the for the yacht club over to Vulcan heritage, a while back it was actually permitted by the DNR to be five feet wide. And when we look at a trail, a usable trail that you can utilize a bike on, we like do minimum eight feet, hopefully 10 feet. They're basically—what we're hearing at this point from a railroad is "No way. We may consider to five feet but maybe we won't even consider that." And to try to get an answer, a clear cut black and white answer out of them, is very difficult until you actually submit the application again for a permit. The railroad very concerned about anything that would intrude onto their property. So, it'd be very nice to have the it a little bit closer to the property—their property—but it would be a boardwalk that has to extend completely over the water and bypass their property—not touch their property because they said absolutely no to any tying in or anything to their property. So, it's a challenging one. It's—you know, it's one that we don't want to give up on because it's a great connection for that entire riverfront to hopefully connect it entirely all the way down to Ballard. But it's one piece at a time as they come forward.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 10:23**

I've had some conversations with Deputy Director Flick, so I understand the convolutions of that conversation and trying to figure out solutions that get us to that point. I mean, I'm—I think about the comp plan and the trails improvements we're trying to initiate to complete like a holistic trail connections throughout the city. And there's there's—we've got some great trails and bike system, bike/pedestrian poss—possibilities right now. But there are those key segments that are just, you know, they're sticky, because there's a lot of challenge with them. So, I appreciate everything that you guys are doing because it's a lot more than anybody knows, internally how you're trying to move those projects forward.

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

One last thing on that was proximity to the dam. So, there was some original use that was hoping that the Vulcan Heritage could be used for a few other things like even a boat dock docking area and with some jetties that would go out and kind of protect that area. But um, but there's—they have concerns about that too.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 11:31**

Can you—Okay, so off of that one, jumping over to Peabody and the seawall rebuild project. I know that's a pretty substantial thing. I don't know what—we're not there yet, but where in the process of rebuilding that seawall and making that improvement are we?

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:47**

That would likely be a couple years out just from the dollar the dollar amount of the investment. We could simply just rebuild the seawall, that'd be one thing. And do it in a way that's like rip rap, you know, on an angle sloped angle. But when we're doing that—the design or the concept that we did also had a trail that would go through there, and then create some opportunities with a kayak launch and other to actually make it an amenity—usable amenity versus something you just look out at. So, if we're going to do it. So, we're not in a critical point where that walls gonna fall in today or tomorrow, but it continues to deteriorate, and it will at some point. We'll get—we'll catch it by that time.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 12:34**

Okay.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:34**

And even if it did, you know, it wouldn't go all at once, it would go a piece at a time, and we'd be able to—that would, you know, give us an indication that we have to do something sooner than later.

**Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 12:50**

I can I can see what those improvements look like. I've been down in the Telulah shoreline, and I've seen what has changed down there, which is pretty phenomenal. And so, I can sort of envision those changes all along the Fox River waterway and how you're trying to do these things in other park places. So, I mean, I think we're—you know, I just want to point out that there's a lot of hard work to try and move these little challenging segments forward that I don't think anybody's aware of. And I want to commend you and staff for just plowing forward and trying to work your way through it. Because I know, just sitting for half an hour with Director Flick, how challenging even that little chunk between Lutz and Vulcan Heritage is. You wouldn't think it would be much of a challenge, but wow, kind of crazy what is all involved. So, kudos to you guys. Thank you.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 13:40**

Thank you.

**Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 13:42**

Alderson. Yes.

**Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 13:43**

Thank you. Just one quick suggestion, as this is the last meeting of Parks and Rec, I found this incredibly helpful. So, if you—I think if you could get a cliff notes of this and fire it off to the new members of Parks and Rec, I think that would get them off on a great start to understanding what's coming up in the coming year.

**Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:01**

Absolutely. Any more questions about that? Okay.