

Item 24-0391: Approve the request from The Boldt Company for a street occupancy permit for the Trout Museum of Art

Municipal Services Committee

Mon, Apr 08, 2024 4:30PM

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:07

We'll start with our first action item 24-0391 to approve the request from the Boldt company for a street occupancy permit for the Trout Museum of Art. Lawrence University project along College Avenue Drew to Durkee Street, Drew Street, College to Kimball alley, and Kimball alley between Drew Street and Durkee street for a period ending November 1, 2024. Do we have a motion?

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:33

Move to approve.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:35

We have a motion to approve. We have a second?

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 01:38

Second.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:39

We have a motion to approve and a second. Any discussion? Alder Alfheim.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 01:44

Thank you, chair. This is a great project. I'm very—my, the whole community is excited about this. However, I do have to voice numerous emails have come in in terms of constituent feedback about the shutting down of Drew Street. Just to let the record show if we could do have a great conversation, explanation as to why it's necessary to shut down Drew as opposed to College or the alley, and if there are any potential graces that could be given on Sundays when the workers may not be working and constituents can get from the flats up to church. If I could ask Director Clock to address.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 02:27

Director Block.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 02:29

Director one. Thank you, Chair. Related to the conversations that went on prior to the permit hitting your desks and our desks, Boldt worked extensively with our traffic control division and our engineers on this one, trying to minimize traffic impacts to the best of our abilities. The original proposal included closures—long-term lane closures—on College Ave. Given the amount of traffic that flows through College Ave daily and the type of roadway, it being a major arterial through the through the city, the closure was diverted to more minor streets that see less traffic and less individual businesses impacted. The largest impact here is likely obviously those traveling Drew Street, but also the Lawrence campus itself has direct access off of this roadway closure.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 03:36

A closure of this magnitude in terms of just the width needed, the length needed, deals with the type of construction, modular construction. They're actually lifting pre-made modular sections of the building and need

ample staging room to complete this operation. So, it's unique in that fashion, and every chance was taken to minimize these impacts.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 04:06

However, the topic of weekend or Sunday downtime reopening of a lane or lanes in this area is certainly something we could entertain with Boldt. So far, they've been great to work with not only on this project but the City Center project in terms of accommodating requests and working with us to minimize impacts and work around different events, billing times, things like that. So, we will certainly follow up with them.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 04:36

I appreciate that. Every effort. Thank you.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 04:39

Alder Hartzheim?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 04:42

Thank you, Chair. I'm wondering if someone on staff could address the timing issue. It seems like it's coming to us to be approved, but it's already blocked off and ready to go. Is this something that usually happens in the city and why is that?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 04:59

Director Block?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 05:00

Sure, I can take this question. Thank you, chair. It's a good question. It happens quite a bit when a contractor comes forward with a time crunch and schedule constraints, that they get started with a short term, short duration, less than 30 days. We can get them started with a permit that can be administratively approved, and we give them ample notice that there is no guarantee that the long-term closure will be approved. It's only good for 30 days, and we must get this long-term closure on the committee agenda, and with ample time to move through Council if it were to be approved, because they're working on a 30-day clock.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 05:48

Thank you, I appreciate that. I would be interested in seeing whether it could be amended or corrected to try to add some of this potential opening during non-working hours kind of thing before it flows through for approval because we are at this 30 days, but I don't know what the status is as to the end of that 30 days. Thank you,

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 06:07

Director Block, it looks like they have a temporary permit through May 5. So, it doesn't appear if we wanted to make such changes, there would be an issue with holding this to another meeting. Is that correct?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 06:24

Correct.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 06:28

Any other questions? Discussion? Alder Meltzer?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:34

So, to have a conversation about that, is that something that would just be between staff and Boldt? Or is that something that we'd have to take a more active role in as the committee?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 06:47

Just staff and Boldt could do that. Correct.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 06:53

Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 06:54

So, could this be approved with that contingency? Thank you.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 06:59

Director Block or Attorney Behrens?

Attorney Christopher Behrens 07:03

Just to remind the committee and kind of along those lines, committee could certainly take action on it one way or the other tonight. And in the interim Director Block can talk to Boldt and then share some information at Council, and at that point, you can make a decision whether at Council to move ahead with it, refer it back to committee at that point, if more time is needed. Just considering there—we do have some time, but there is a little bit of a limited window, this would allow things to keep moving to just for your consideration.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 07:33

Thank you.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:37

Sounds good to me.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 07:39

Would someone like to make some action?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:44

We already have a motion and a second to approve.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 07:48

So, we would just—everyone is okay with just approval, and then we can deal with this at Council? Hearing no objections.

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 07:59

Knowing how much faith I have in Director Block, I will say yes.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 08:03

Thank you. Anyone else? All right. Hearing no objection, then we'll vote. All those in favor say aye. Aye. Any opposed? That motion passes four zero.