

Item 25-0793: Approve Veterans Memorial Park Natural Sculpture Request

Parks and Recreation Committee

Mon, Jul 07, 2025 6:00PM

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 01:11

There are no public hearings or appearances. We'll move on to the first action item, item 25-0793, approve Veterans Memorial Park natural sculpture request.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 01:23

Motion to approve.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:23

Second.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 01:25

Would you like to speak on the matter?

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 01:28

Sure. I'll give some brief information. If you've seen this go through the Arts Committee last week, this is an opportunity that Community Development, or—yeah, community development and the library staff is working on, a community art program, where they're bringing in residency artists to the city to do projects with the public. And couple weeks ago, I met with the artist that we're working with, and we went through a couple park locations, and Memorial Park was selected.

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 01:57

This is a really unique kind of, I guess, artistic endeavor in which they use natural settings within their area to create artwork. And I guess, to just briefly describe this, they want to use a combination of pine cones and sticks to create artwork on the ground, fully knowing that they're at the mercy of park users, wind, animals, etc., to mess with the artwork when it's done, and that's completely acceptable. The point is to get the community involved in natural artwork, using public spaces and public parks, and I guess doing something fun, and that's what this checks all the boxes for. The Park and Rec Department has no issues with moving forward with this.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 02:42

Excellent. Any questions, comments? Seeing—yes, Alder van Zeeland.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 02:51

Thank you. So just to clarify, as far as costs, what does this cost the city?

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 03:00

So, I can say there's no cost to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 03:03

Okay.

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 03:03

I am not sure of the agreement with CommDev and the library.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 03:08

Sure. I don't recall anything coming through the finance area or any other, but I guess I would like to know if there is a cost associated with it. I do support the project. I think it's a very neat idea, and I think a lot of people would be interested is given that, hopefully, it doesn't cost a lot of money.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 03:29

Alder Schultz. Oh, I'm sorry. I thought I saw you raise your hand.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 03:33

Hey, I like ephemeral arts, so this breaks into the community. I'm all for it.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 03:47

Oh, I'm sorry.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 03:51

The memo states—and thank you for asking about the cost. I was going to ask about that. The memo states, there are no major liability concerns. Could someone just elaborate on that a little bit. I mean it says "no major" liability concerns. Does that mean there's some other liability concerns?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 04:11

Just minor.

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 04:13

If you want, I can describe the activity a little more.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 04:17

Well, I've read the memo, and it looks like people are going to be in the park placing pine cones and sticks in a artistic formation. I don't know if any members of our office were consulted on it, but this basically sounds like people in a park engaging in a recreational activity which is typically covered by recreational immunity.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 04:41

Thank you.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 04:42

So, I can't speak to the use of the term "major," but...

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 04:48

It just jumped out at me, and I felt the need to ask about it, because, I mean, I certainly don't anticipate there being any issues at all with this. But like I said, it jumped out at me that—the wording of it. That's all I had, Chair.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 05:03

Thank you, Alder Croatt. Any other questions? Comments? Seeing none move on to vote. All those in favor? All those opposed? Abstaining? This passes four to zero.