

MINUTES
Skatepark Committee Meeting
2/10/22

Attendance:

Amy-Mae Court
Dave Cosgrove
Rich Blalock
Chris Rice
Rich Duddy
Bob Bogardus (Recreation Board Visitor/Supporter)

City Officials:

Peter Rice, Director of Public Works
Todd Henley, Recreation Director

Agenda:

City Update: city is waiting for Pillar Design to complete 30% of design, outline scope of services and budget.

Unknowns identified at this time:

Geotech Survey Results for Stump Dump Parcel
Permitting

Peter: To enter into design/build with unknowns is not advisable

Peter: asked Pillar to do 30% design (geotech, permitting included in that 30%) Once 30% design is received and, if we are still pleased with Pillar, city would consider having Pillar complete the remaining 70% of design.

No ETA as of yet for Pillar deliverables (i.e. Scope of services, budget, etc... yet to be received).

Peter: Open city decision - determine if we want to bid out or go design/build (decision to be made in future)

Peter: Best design/build are ones where we define materials specifically to be used / define what you get. If you don't nail down specifics, assumptions might be problematic. If required to go out to bid, we would have better information. Define scope as best as possible.

Peter: Design/Bid/Build approach can be more expensive but gives more control and greater likelihood of success

Question asked about precise location of skatepark on parcel - Peter confirmed we are still aiming to have situated near road

Rich B - shared history of stump dump site. Specifically, former sports field use that was considered but didn't work out.

Peter - there's always potential for abutter issues, geotech, ingress/egress is also a concern (part of traffic & safety).

Peter - During design process, abutter notices will be sent out.

This project would require planning board, TAC... since no waivers, no ZBA meeting is likely required. Might need a conditional use permit given possible proximity to wetlands.

Peter - we were looking for a written update from Pillar that can be shared with Mayor, City Council, etc...

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Rich B. - 2 buckets of money to draw from either CIP or fund balance.

Peter - better to leave \$2.2 in CIP to provide more flexibility. Monies were appropriated in 2022. at end of 2022, we either encumber or put back into fund balance. If back in fund balance, we can possibly bond the project. Exact sourcing of funds might change but project is moving forward and funding decisions shouldn't impede progress.

CIP - projects debt out over the years - try to keep at 10% or less than annual operating budget each year

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Fundraising:

Press Room: Chris Rice : highlighted that first event will occur on 3/9 (Wednesdasy) - all ages (videos, cheap food, raffle of product)... Possibly do monthly at Press Room. Skate music band? Chris thinks money might only come from event to be likely held upstairs (cover charge cut) , raffles. Time of night TBD. Chris is working w/Tristan. Drift and Voyageur shops are also involved.

3S Artspace (Potential in-person fundraising event): early May generally seems like a preferred time. Rich B. likes early spring. Overall consensus is 3S is a good central place to hold the event.

The Office Lounge: have indicated repeatedly that they would like to be involved. Eric Goodrich has had repeated communications with ownership. Future plans TBD.

Vida Cantina: David Vargas is interested in supporting. Todd suggested idea of asking David for an auction experience (i.e. cook w/David type event - possibly multiple events?).

Bob (last name unknown but is on Rec. Board) Talked about park naming rights as a way to fundraise. Bob also likes the idea of sponsorship or business logos. According to Todd, there doesn't appear to be any precedent for sponsorship of spaces that directly fund city projects. For example, banners at ball fields in town help fund the baseball little league, PGSA directly (money doesn't go to the city).

Rich D. - suggested idea to have people bid on design features. This idea has been raised in the past.

Dave C. suggested tree planting donations from families - possible placards with sponsor name. Fundraising for lights - people sponsor lights? Maybe have Eversource subsidize (Rich D raised)? Possibly name the lampposts or have placards?

Todd - to avoid confusion, in our communications, we should specify that we are specifically fundraising for lighting of the park. Core park has already been funded via City Council motion in December 2021..

Actions:

Motion (PASSED): Todd to reach out on behalf of the committee to 3S regarding potential springtime fundraiser. Todd will report back at next committee meeting re: possible dates, specifics.

Amy: suggested she would like to hold a meeting on 2/24 Agenda to include Todd's report pack as well as other agenda items TBD.