

Date: February 25, 2015
To: Don Ganje
From: Rebecca Knutson
Re: Renovation of Mears Park

I have only been a volunteer for Mears Park for less than a year but see how valuable this park is to the people in the St. Paul community. For the residents, this park is their back yard; a place to read a book, to go for a stroll, to get a breath of fresh air, to gather with friends. For the businesses, this park serves as an outdoor meeting space, a company picnic area as well as place to bring potential customers or employees. For the volunteers, Mears Park serves as an opportunity to give back to the community and to make the world a beautiful environment. The volunteers pour their heart into their gardens and work hard to enhance the park's attraction to visitors. The Friends of Mears Park budget is slim considering the improvements that need to be made, such as new pavers and new rocks for our stream. CIB funding will help us make the repairs that need to be made to keep Mears Park as a charming attraction to all.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Knutson

FoMP Volunteer

Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)

From: Buzicky, Joe (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul); Korum, Gary (CI-StPaul); Misiewicz, Karin (CI-StPaul)
Subject: RE: MEARS PARK CIB PROPOSAL

The requests were made to the CIB maintenance committee for specific reasons. Losing all the lights that were attached to the trees brought many complaints about the park being dark. We receive the funding based in part on the case we present. I don't want to go this fall's next cycle and say that we used the lighting money for other items. That's Gary's concern with the benches also. I think we need to stick with these but want to work with you on the style, timing and coordination with other proposals.

Joe Buzicky

Building Trades Supervisor

St Paul Parks and Recreation

1100 Hamline Ave North

Saint Paul, MN 55108

P: 651-632-2419

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joe.buzicky@ci.stpaul.mn.us



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From: Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 1:05 PM
To: Korum, Gary (CI-StPaul); Buzicky, Joe (CI-StPaul); Misiewicz, Karin (CI-StPaul)
Subject: RE: MEARS PARK CIB PROPOSAL

Gary, Does that go for the lighting funds as well ?

From: Korum, Gary (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 12:20 PM
To: Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul); Buzicky, Joe (CI-StPaul); Misiewicz, Karin (CI-StPaul)
Subject: RE: MEARS PARK CIB PROPOSAL

I'm not comfortable using the CIB funding we received for the benches for anything other than new benches. We have already communicated to BOMA, Thune's office, Manilla and Friends of Mears Park that we were replacing benches in Spring of 2015.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul)" <don.ganje@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Date: 01/07/2015 11:58 AM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Buzicky, Joe (CI-StPaul)" <joe.buzicky@ci.stpaul.mn.us>, "Misiewicz, Karin (CI-StPaul)"

<karin.misiewicz@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: "Korum, Gary (CI-StPaul)" <gary.korum@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: RE: MEARS PARK CIB PROPOSAL

JOE,

I was not aware we received any CIB funding for Mears.....so that's a good thing as it sure is needed. However, I did not know there was a big need for path lighting, so that was a surprise. Concern I have is that the concrete on the stream seems like the first thing that should be addressed as it is *really* falling apart and the repaving of the entire park I would think should happen prior to the new bench replacement, as we will have to uninstall all the new benches to put in new paving. Guess we should meet, as you suggest, and discuss the big picture and what I should do regarding new CIB request for Mears. I am available tomorrow from noon on, all day Friday and Monday AM if you might be able to stop down here ??

From: Buzicky, Joe (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 10:51 AM
To: Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul); Misiewicz, Karin (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Korum, Gary (CI-StPaul)
Subject: RE: MEARS PARK CIB PROPOSAL

Don, the work related to the 2015 CIB cycle is to install path lighting for \$72,000 and to replace the rusted metal benches for \$53,500. The 4 teak benches were already replaced in 2014. The estimate (verbal) that John Mannillo and I received from Bulach was \$40,000 to make repairs to the stream. I would think that Bulach could be asked to expand their scope to include the cleaning of the stone bench? I assume they would have a pressure washer on site to prep the stream bed for repairs? Can't believe the cost to do this would exceed \$3,000. There are other vendors who do pressure wash cleaning if we need to get other bids. The stream pump was replaced in 2011 I believe with a used pump from the water dept. that should outlast us all. It's a real beast. There is some electrical work in the vault that needs to be done. Moisture issues have taken a toll on some of the equipment in there. I don't feel comfortable throwing a number at that without getting a vendor to the site to provide a quote. The vault door leaked last year but you found the gasket that took care of it. I believe the irrigation is working well. The pavers are probably the biggest issue along with sub-soil corrections or a concrete base to lay them on. The site especially the paths show where from vehicle traffic and settling. Last thing that is cosmetic is the drinking fountain. It's getting old and rusty.

I'd like to meet to decide how we proceed and how we tie the CIB funding already received into the big picture. Let me know if you have any questions.



Joe Buzicky
Building Trades Supervisor

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From: Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 3:42 PM
To: Misiewicz, Karin (CI-StPaul); Buzicky, Joe (CI-StPaul)
Subject: MEARS PARK CIB PROPOSAL

Karen and Joe,

We are submitting a CIB proposal for Mears Park this year. It will likely be structured as a phased proposal, since I believe it will be costly. I am looking at funding to restore the entire stream, clean all stone in park, replace grid of Ash trees, replace benches ?, infill missing birch trees, replace asphalt paving along garden walk, replace pavers as needed and add stone edging along all garden beds in south half of park. Basically a total restoration of the park.....it will be 25 years old in 2016. In regard to this, I have a couple of questions as follows;

- I believe that the first thing to address should be restoration of the colored concrete “rock” along the entire stream as well as any pump etc., if needed. Did you guys ever meet with the Bulach Concrete Co. last year to get an estimate of what this might cost??
- Do all the benches.....metal and wood, need replacement or are you guys gradually addressing this ?
- Any guesstimate of what it might cost to clean the black mold off the long Limestone bench that runs through the entire park ?
- Do you think all the pavers need to come out and be replaced, or not ?

- Anything else you can think of that needs fixing ??

If you could respond to this by end of this week ??, that would be great. THANK YOU !



Don Ganje, FASLA
Senior Landscape Architect

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Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)

From: marilyn amundson <m.amundson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 3:55 PM
To: Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Money for Mears

This is a letter in support of spending money on Mears Park. It is in bad need of repairs. I would be so disappointed if Mears did not receive funding. I consider the Park my backyard and am proud to be a volunteer. There are many volunteers who give many hours of their time to the Park. It is definitely the jewel of Lowertown. It is where many receptions, business functions, family time and special events are held. Many visitors will be enjoying the area when Saints begin playing in the new stadium.

I would think the question would not be, "Should Mears receive funding," but "How much funding should Mears receive!"

Marilyn Amundson
Resident of Airye Condos

Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)

From: Laurel Lapore <laurie.lapore@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 1:55 PM
To: Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Mears Park

Hello Don,

I've lived in Lowertown for 17 years, overlooking Mears Park. I am also a FoMP.

The pleasure of having this jewel/treasure and watching all that has evolved in this neighborhood has been most remarkable. I actually overlook it.

Numerous dedicated neighbors have given much time to this Park because we all love it!

With all the new activities lately, it looks a bit worn and needs an uplift.

Mayor Coleman loves this Park too and tells us each time he shows up for an event, which is frequently.

Please help us out with the funding to continue making Mears Park the gem it is.

Thank you,

Laurie Lapore

On The Park Condominiums

Sent from my iPad

Lehmann, Daley (CI-StPaul)

From: Terry Henry <lauraplusterry@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 11:21 AM
To: Ganje, Don (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Friends of Mears Park..Karen Brennen; John E Mannillo
Subject: Mears Park

Dear Don;

Karen Brennen of Friends of Mears Park asked that we volunteer gardeners in Mears Park send letters in support of the CIB funding application. I understand that this application may be considered at the upcoming CIB meeting on Monday, March 9, 2015.

When my wife and I purchased our condominium to spend our retirement years in River Park Lofts (immediately across Sixth and Wacouta Streets from Mears Park) in July 2006, we quickly volunteered to care for one of the flower plots. We hope to enjoy this effort for years to come.

For your information, my wife and I have raised flowers, ornamental plants, fruits and vegetables for each year since my return from Vietnam in 1965. I have been a city manager and so know the operation of city parks, and Laura has a degree in Botany and graduated courses in horticulture. Prior to our moving to the city, we have been commercial grape growers on acreage in Washington County, MN for several years.

Ever since 2006, I have observed the following relative to Mears Park:

1. City documents identify Mears Park as the jewel of Lowertown.
2. The usage of Mears Park has radically increased over these past years: more weddings, more public ceremonies, more public and private gatherings, and movies on summer evenings. Some of the Mores Park events have national (perhaps international) impact: for example...the Twin Cities Jazz Festival has attracted around 5000 to 10,000 attendees each day over a three day period.
3. Many of the various major events have attracted large numbers of food and spirits sellers and other commercial establishments that have set up shop on the grounds and walkway inside Mears Park.
4. The new Green Line Light Rail system has and will radically increase the numbers of visitors to Mears Park events coming from throughout the entire Twin Cities region -- including Wisconsin.
5. A estimated 400 leashed dogs from the surrounding areas of Lowertown have been urinating on all the constricted grass ares of Mears Park for years. The sprinkling and

watering systems for these sections of the park have tended to be inoperable. Thus, the grasses have not been properly watered and the accumulated urine has not been dissipated. One wonders if the various grass areas have become so contaminated so that the area poses a danger to health of children and adults treading in these sections. Laura and I have chosen never to allow our great grandchildren to run or walk in these grass area

6. Some parts of the grass areas are totally denuded
7. Mears Park mainly has ash trees that form the shade necessary for the health and comfort of all persons who want to enjoy the park. Sadly, the Emerald Ash Bore beetle is now a reality and infesting many such trees in the St. Paul region. All ash trees are susceptible and the days of the ash trees in Mears are numbered. One wonders if the trees will have to be removed en-mass. Without any fast replacement, the park will become a barren place.
8. The paving plates that form the hardstand walking areas of the park were installed with simple sand base. This type of construction only supports pedestrians and **NOT** the heavy trucks, etc. that drive on the hardstand to deliver equipment and supplies necessary for the various events. A large number of the paving plates are broken and pose a serious danger to all persons (including children) who try to tread in the area without accomplishing extreme caution.
9. The artificial creek that forms the heart of Mears Park is fast deteriorating. Sections of the creek bed are so broken that I wonder if parts may be totally replaced.
10. I am not aware of any major refurbishment of Mears Park during since our arrival in Lowertown in 2006.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions....

Sincerely,

Terry J. Henry, PhD

Laura & Terry Henry
406 Wacouta Street, Unit 208
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Land Line Phone [\(651\) 717-4801](tel:6517174801)
Cell phone [\(612\) 323-6541](tel:6123236541)
lauraplusterry@gmail.com

March 3, 201

Don Ganje

Dear Mr. Ganje:

We are writing in support of the funding for improvements to Mears Park. We have been volunteers at Mears Park since we moved to Lowertown in 2004. We have planted and maintained the same garden for 10 years near the stream; the gardens have expanded and the soil improved tremendously over the years.

We have witnessed many weddings, concerts and beautiful evenings at the park in the summer and winter. The CHS Stadium for the St. Paul Saints will be open this coming summer and will most likely increase traffic through Mears.

The park is beautiful, but needs on-going repair and maintenance in order to be safe for everyone who visits. Pavers need constant attention due to Minnesota's freezing/thawing cycle. Trees need pruning or replacement. Park benches are heavily used by those attending concerts as well as daily crowds coming to enjoy lunch from the food trucks.

In reading about the history of Mears Park, it is apparent that much work has already been done over many years to bring the entire area of Lowertown to the point where it is now considered one of the finest neighborhoods in the nation.

Years ago I had a conversation with Kay Petersen, one of the early volunteers. She had no previous gardening experience before moving to Lowertown. Walking through Mears, she recalled picking up 400 cigarette butts. Mears Park has made a remarkable recovery from neglect and it deserves continued attention in order to support the use that is inevitable in the coming years.

Thank you,

Paula & Mark Neuman-Scott
The Great Northern Building
300 Wall Street, # 303
St. Paul, MN 55101