

CITY OF PERU PUBLIC HEARING JULY 31, 2023

A public hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. on July 31, 2023, to discuss a Resolution of Authorization for All Seasons Recreation Improvements for the OSLAD Grant Program at Washington Park.

Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the meeting to order.

In attendance at the hearing were, Mayor Kolowski, Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia, Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert, Fire Chief/PSM Jeff King, Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning, IT Director Stephen Rounds, Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, Chris Perra, President of T.E.S.T., Maribeth Wilson of the News Tribune. Others in attendance were Sherry Mayszak, Linda Dzierzynski and Jill Bernal.

Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning reported on an opportunity to apply to the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant (OSLAD Grant Program). Mr. Carls reported the city applied for the same grant in 2021, but was turned down. Mr. Carls stated the city would submit the same grant with minor modifications. Mr. Carls reported if the city is awarded the grant, the city would match the state contributions 50/50 of the \$400,000 planned project.

Mr. Carls outlined the project features:

- Ice Rink chiller unit
 - Ice chiller unit
 - The chiller unit is used to regulate the temperature of the ice when in use, allowing for more consistent use over the winter and extending how long the ice can be used each year
 - With a chiller unit installed, officials said the ice could be used when temperatures are 50 degrees or colder. The hope is that ice would be available from about Thanksgiving to St. Patrick's Day or longer.
 - Ice resurfacer, commonly known as a Zamboni machine.
 - Storage shelter to house the Zamboni.
- Fire Pit
 - Around the skating rink and new building where visitors can stay warm
- Other upgrades
 - Bocce ball
 - Bags
 - Ninja warrior/obstacle course
 - Exercise stations
 - pushup, situp, squat, pullup, arm press, body curl, horizontal bar, monkey bar and parkour stations
 - Walking paths between little league diamonds

Mr. Carls reported that recipients of the grants will be judged on the uniqueness of their proposals and the ability of the facilities to be used year-round. Mr. Carls stated that for OSLAD, one of the things they focus on in their scoring system is unique recreational activities and [this project] is not something that we currently have within an hour's drive.

Mr. Carls noted the primary expense is the chiller system for extended seasonal use.

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events stated the chillers for the ice rink are the "missing pieces" to help ensure it is available for family skate nights, hockey leagues and recreational skating. Mr. Thorson stated that we have the building, the boards and the rink. Mr. Thorson stated the rink is 200 feet long by 100 feet wide (regulation size) and the chillers are a big need to be able to use the rink three months out of the year – instead of the seven days like we had last year.

Mr. Carls stated the city will also identifying a number of projects we have already done to enhance Washington Park which, include the pickleball courts, the tennis courts, the parking areas, the splash pad and things of that nature.

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Mr. Carls noted the submission date of September 1st and stated the award would not be made for 6-9 months.

Resident Jill Bernal stated she attend the last OSLAD public hearing and wished the city would put this much time and energy into getting a pool.

Mayor Kolowski stated the city is trying to be creative and different by offering something in the wintertime for children and families to enjoy outside.

Public Hearing was concluded at 6:40 p.m.