

Cespedes, Christopher

From: Council of the Commons
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 4:09 PM
To: Cespedes, Christopher
Subject: FW: Center of the City Park

From: Council of the Commons <xxxxxxx>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 4:07 PM
To: Lynda Asher <xxxxxxx@gmail.com>; Council of the Commons xxxxxxx@a2gov.org; Cespedes, Christopher xxxxxxx@a2gov.org
Subject: RE: Center of the City Park

Good afternoon Asher,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. I appreciate your feedback and while I cannot speak to the specific plans and decision-making processes of the Council of the Commons (C.O.C) and the City of Ann Arbor. I can confirm that your comment will be provided as a communication item on today's, May 4th Commission Agenda.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts

Best regards,

From: Lynda Asher <xxxxxxx@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Council of the Commons <xxxxxxx@a2gov.org>; Cespedes, Christopher <xxxxxxx@a2gov.org>
Subject: Center of the City Park

I am writing to register my disappointment in the city of Ann Arbor for the exceedingly slow effort to fulfill the citizens of Ann Arbor wishes expressed when they voted to develop a park in the center of the city. This park is in line with parks in many cities, large and small; from NYC to Plymouth, MI. As our council is relentlessly pushing density and high rises in our town, the need for a central park - available to ALL Ann Arborites - seems to be more necessary than ever. So it has been truly shocking that the city has shown limited enthusiasm for a public good.

I was pleased when my fellow citizens approved the establishment of this central park. But it appears that the powers that be in the city, who could have worked with the volunteers to help this concept come to fruition, instead put up block after block to prevent it. It feels like a thwarting of democracy - the people want this and voted it into place. I was shocked when I recently read that the Administrator concluded that food trucks would not be successful in the park.

Back in the aughts, in a meeting with Herbert Dreiseitl, Mayor Heiftje, city staff, environmentalists, reps from, Public Art, etc, we discussed a park in the place where Center of the City currently lies, with enthusiasm. Dreiseitl did an off the cuff drawing of said park, which I imagine still exists somewhere. When I discussed this park with him the previous evening, he said every town in Europe has a downtown square park and we discussed that Seva and other food providers would site cafes on the north side of this park, with perhaps a skating rink, an amphitheatre for music and plays, places to read and play with children, etc. His ideas were in support of the area as a vital, engaging central square. He ended up doing a project at the new city hall, as the money for that was already there; but he confided that he would have preferred doing the downtown park that would have become a valuable resource for all the citizens. It baffles me that so many city leaders cannot see the true value of this, and would prefer to see yet another high rise lining the pockets of builders and taking perhaps the last central square away from the citizens of our community.

If you actively engage in the process to make the park a success, many people and I will use it and appreciate your foresight to provide an amenity to the city.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Warm regards,

Lynda Asher
xxxxxxx,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104