

Ann Arbor City Council Regular Session: May 15, 2023
Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386

<u>Sent Time</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	<u>Reason for Redaction</u>
8:25 PM	Travis Radina	Eli Nathans		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
7:50 PM	City Council All	Lynda Asher		Personal Contact Information	Privacy

From: Eli Nathans [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 8:25 PM
To: Radina, Travis
Cc: Laretta Codrington;Kathy Wyatt
Subject: Invitation to participate in a panel at the June Washtenaw County Democratic Party monthly meeting

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello Councilman Radina,

This email probably should be sent to a different email address, but since I only have your City Council address, this is what I am using. I apologize in advance.

The June WCDP monthly meeting will feature a panel on Hate Crimes in Washtenaw County and Michigan: Forms, Targets, Magnitude, Responses. Leslie Stambaugh has suggested you as a possible panelist. Is this something that you would consider? So far Eli Savit and the director of the Michigan ADL chapter, Carolyn Normandin, have agreed to participate. Leslie may as well. The meeting will take place on Sunday afternoon, June 4th, in person, at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, with a parallel broadcast on Zoom. The program will start at about 2:30, and last until 4:00.

Please let me know if this is something you could fit in. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the panel. Videos of our past meetings (all meetings are recorded and then placed on the WCDP website) can be found at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPfi_FLAzT_Qp-PIRdxspCLmeWriRYbg7

best regards
Eli Nathans
Vice Chair, WCDP Programs Committee

best regards
Eli

From: Lynda Asher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 7:50 PM
To: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor);Disch, Lisa;Harrison, Cynthia;Song, Linh;Watson, Chris;Radina, Travis;Ghazi Edwin, Ayesha;Eyer, Jen;Akmon, Dharma;Briggs, Erica;Cornell@a2gov.org
Subject: Center of the City Park

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

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 for the city.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Warm regards,

Lynda Asher



Ann Arbor, MI 48104