



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

CC: Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator
John Fournier, Deputy City Administrator
Mike Kennedy, Fire Chief
Josh Landefeld, Parks & Recreation Manager
Missy Stults, Sustainability & Innovations Director

SUBJECT: February 5, 2024 Council Agenda Response Memo

DATE: February 1, 2024

CA-3 – Resolution to Support the Leslie Science and Nature Center Nature Playscape and Appropriate \$250,000.00 (8 Votes Required)

Question: Can you give more details about the Playscape and the needed upgrades? Do any of the upgrades include disability accessibility? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: Information regarding the Playscape and other amenities at Leslie Science & Nature Center (LSNC) can be found on their website [here](#).

In regard to accessibility, the Playscape and other improvements to the site were developed with accessibility in mind. The pathway created in 2020 was made of crushed gravel and kept to a less than 5% grade for accessibility. This pathway provides the first accessible hiking trail into the wooded areas of our site, expands accessibility by making our upper fire pit accessible and most features of the playscape.

Within the playscape itself, metal slides were prioritized for their durability and accessibility with cochlear implants. The water pumps were chosen intentionally as they are pumps easy for children and individuals with mobility challenges to move, and placed for accessibility considerations. The water play feature currently in development was designed to allow physical access on level ground where possible, given the glacial terrain.

As LSNC continues fundraising and with the support of the funds in consideration, the next portions of the playscape will continue centering accessibility. These include crushed gravel walkways to all features, ground level entry flooring for the outdoor teaching space (ramp edge, no lip), wheelchair accessible picnic tables and seating accommodating young people as well as those with mobility and sight challenges.

Lastly, signage will include pictures for multilanguage understanding as well as multilingual greetings and orientation language. There will be a gender neutral restroom built that is both accessible for wheelchairs as well as provide a changing station for parents to utilize.

CA-6 – Resolution to Approve Five-Year Professional Service Agreements for As-Needed Architecture Services for Parks & Recreation with A3C Collaborative Architecture, InToto Studio, and Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (NTE Annual \$300,000.00 Per Firm)

Question: Does this also limit the number of new contractors who can work with the City? What does this mean for newly created firms, particularly firms owned by women or minorities? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: It does not directly limit the number of new contractors who can work at the City, it merely pre-qualifies certain firms to work for the Parks Department within a certain fiscal limit. The City can still solicit proposals from other firms as needed. Newly created firms and those owned by women and minorities could still respond to the City's ongoing requests for proposals. One of the three architecture firms that has been selected is minority-owned.

CA-7 - Resolution to Approve a Professional Services Agreement with G.O. Williams & Associates, L.L.C. for Circular Economy Planning and Stakeholder Engagement (\$80,000.00)

Question: Who were the local stakeholders? What were their backgrounds? How racially and socio-economically diverse was the group? Were all wards represented? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: The Resident Advisors that helped inform the community engagement strategy included: Shannon Armstrong, Lindsay Calka, Veronica Contreras, Angela Davis, Mariah Henderson, Yusef Houamed, Husnu Kaplan, Diana McKnight-Morton, Kelly Moore, Rachel Mundus, Fadel Nabils, Fayiza Nabils, Aaron Palmer, Cassie Shamey, Eileen Spring, Elizabeth Tolrud. These individuals graciously gave of their time and expertise to help make the circular economy engagement strategy more robust. Steps we took to identify Resident Advisors included conducting multiple layers of interviews during which we asked people who had a direct connection with the A²ZERO program for names of people they knew, or had heard of, who might be willing to help. We then interviewed the people we found through that process, asking them the same

question. Through this multilayered and iterated approach, we identified about 30 people to invite as Resident Advisors. Of that group, 15 participated in the three in-person sessions.

The Project Team started by spending time clarifying what we believed the term “frontline community” meant for our purposes. We agreed we would focus on drawing representation from demographics such as:

- Those who have been historically politically marginalized
- Residents who live in neighborhoods identified in the Neighborhoods at Risk tool by [Headwaters Economics](https://nar.headwaterseconomics.org/2600003000/explore/map)
<https://nar.headwaterseconomics.org/2600003000/explore/map>
- Those who may experience the most climate vulnerability

Additionally, we recognized that we wanted to do everything we could to generate a trusting relationship with the Resident Advisors. To that end, we have done our best to be specific and transparent about:

- Expectations for the participants and the Project Team
- Being responsive to all questions and comments
- Explaining how we would handle the information shared with us

We also adopted the Spectrum of Public Participation put forth by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) to clarify the level of influence they would have on the final report’s findings. We used the “Collaboration” level of impact (identified in yellow) as our reference point.

PH-1/DS-1 - Resolution to Approve Fees for the Fire Department Ambulance Transport and Lift Assists and Appropriate Funding (8 Votes Required)

Question: Can you describe a lift assist? What will happen if patients cannot afford the fees? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: A lift assist is when an individual is assisted up to a more mobile position from the ground, chair, bed, or stairs by the Ann Arbor Fire Department, but not treated or brought to hospital for further medical attention. If the person is transported to a hospital, this is not considered a lift assist. That is coded as a medical emergency.

Lift assists that occur at or for a private residence (PR) will result in the following fee schedule:

- One to six in a 12-month period - No charge and the patient will be informed of this policy and charged for any subsequent responses above six (6) to provide a lift assist.
- Seven (7) and above in a 12-month - fee as adopted.

Similar to the current practice for false fire alarms, unpaid lift assists would be attempted to be placed on the tax role. Billing is only intended to address chronic callers whose medical condition is such they would likely be better cared for in an assisted living situation.

Similar to the proposed ambulance transport fee, the lift assist fee proposal does not include the provision for a collection agency.