

**Ann Arbor City Council Regular Session: January 7, 2013
 Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386**

<u>Sent Time</u>	<u>Received Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	<u>Reason for Redaction</u>
	6:39 PM	Jane Lumm	Danny Aronson		Personal Email	Privacy
	7:02 PM	John Hieftje	Aaron Hammer		Personal Email	Privacy
	7:24 PM	Mike Anglin	Donald Salberg		Personal Email	Privacy

Allen, Jane

From: Smith, Colin
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 6:39 PM
To: Lumm, Jane
Subject: Re: Skate Park

Sorry, just saw this so a brief iPhone response: my thoughts are that the process for determining the location was a robust one and the selected location makes the best sense for the park system. The location has been previously determined by both PAC and Council and grants received that are site specific. Vets is a regional park and this attraction will likely draw people from all around Ann Arbor and other communities. Unfortunately, anytime an alteration to a park is proposed there tends to be some level of resistance - whether it be tennis courts, dog parks, project grow gardens, rain gardens, or a skate park.

Thanks,
Colin

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2013, at 4:08 PM, "Lumm, Jane" <JLumm@a2gov.org> wrote:

Colin, FYI and thoughts. Thanks! Jane

From: danny aronson [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon 1/7/2013 3:59 PM
To: Hieftje, John; Kailasapathy, Sumi; Briere, Sabra; Lumm, Jane; Petersen, Sally; Taylor, Christopher (Council); Kunselman, Stephen; Higgins, Marcia; Teall, Margie; Warpehoski, Chuck; Anglin, Mike
Subject: Skate Park

Approval of a skate park in Vet's Park would be a failure by the city council! Your job is to serve the interests of the people of Ann Arbor and not the special interest of vast minority, albeit well-organized group lead by Trevor Staples. There is no need whatsoever to destroy a peaceful corner or our town with a concrete monstrosity (no matter how pleasant the designers drawing make the project look and sound). Ask yourself th what would the people who live near Vets Park want if you asked them? I'm sure 90% of the people would no want this. I'm bet 85% of the the entire population would rather have our resources put to better use.

That said, Mr. Staples' determination and dedication to this project is certainly to be commended and even admired, however, this location is wrong. Trevor Staples believes the high traffic and high visibility surrounding this location is the exact factor which makes it a good location for a skate park. Which is the exact reason why THIS IS NOT A GOOD LOCATION for a skate park!!

I say, leave this last remaining undeveloped spot of grass alone! Build the skate park in Fuller Park or Buhr Park or even the lot on Jackson Rd where the old Michigan Inn used to be. There are many many better locations that will not take from us yet one more peaceful quite spot.

-Danny Aronson, Ann Arbor

Allen, Jane

From: Aaron Hammer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:02 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: A Word on Connecting William Street

Dear Mayor Hieftje and Council Members,

I am writing in regards to the "Connecting William Street" plan that the DDA will present to you soon. I have been involved with the process over the past year and have attended the recent public presentation put forward by the DDA. As an Old West Side resident, Landscape Architect, and concerned citizen, I feel that the process by which the DDA has come to render its proposal to be flawed.

There is an imbalance in the amount of open space (green space more appropriately named) in relation to the density in which the citizens of Ann Arbor demand. Green space must be and is an essential component to the quality of life, vibrancy, and economic development of this city. The DDA's proposal sent to vote for Council must NOT be voted in favor.

I recommend that the input from hundreds of open-ended responses in the DDA's public survey in support of Green Space be used and examined for future discussion.

I recommend that a public process be used in conjunction with Council, DDA, and PAC, for a comprehensive look for more green space devoted to new development proposals.

I recommend that the Library Lot be used as the primary location for a vibrant, central green space, for the heart of our downtown.

Moreover, the DDA proposal sent forth to Council needs more work and discussion, rendering a Yea vote UNFEASIBLE. As documented by citizen outcry, overwhelming responses from constituents over more green space, public DDA survey open-ended responses supporting green space, and recent heated public discussions of the DDA proposal, a NO vote or tabled vote is the only responsible action.

Sincerely,

Aaron Hammer, BLA, MSU
Landscape Architect

[REDACTED]
OWS Resident

Allen, Jane

From: Donald Salberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 7:24 PM
To: Anglin, Mike
Subject: Skate Park Liability

Dear Councilman Anglin:

Today's article by Ryan Stanton, entitled "Ann Arbor Skatepark design awaits approval from City Council," published at annarbor.com mentions that sufficient money has been collected to finance the construction of a skate board park at Veterans Park in Ann Arbor. City Council has approved the project without requiring important safety features, particularly perimeter fencing and supervision during designated operating hours.

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/ann-arbor-skatepark-design-awaits-approval-from-city-council/>

Among the comments attached to the article is the following:

The Friends of the Ann Arbor Skate Park appear to be collecting donations through the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. A2skatepark.org does not mention whether it is incorporated as a non-profit organization exempt from state and federal taxation. The history of the effort to create a skateboard park does mention that a non-profit booth was open at The Art Fair this summer.

Trevor Staples, chair of the Friends' board, and its six other members must have authority to spend money and hire architects unless the skate park design shown in the article was done pro bono. I would expect that any liability suit will name the Friends of the Ann Arbor Skate Park organization and its board members but any compensation from them will likely be limited. The City will certainly be named since it owns the property, has "deep pockets" and has approved the designs which are lacking in two basic safety requirements: a lockable fence and supervision during defined operating hours.

The City Council members have received emails warning them that approving construction of a skate park without adequate fencing and supervision may destroy any defense against injury except, perhaps, gross negligence on the part of the injured skateboarder. Even insurance companies which provide liability insurance specifically for operators of skate parks will not insure if fencing and supervision are not provided.

I will be disappointed if any skate park users were injured because City Council failed to require simple, sensible and reasonable safety features to be included in the construction and operation of the skate park. Remunerating avoidable injuries with tax payer money will be regretful as well.

Respectfully,

Donald Salberg, MD
Ann Arbor, Michigan