

Email to City Council 10/13/2019

Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am writing to provide an update to my September 23, 2019 memo to you, subject: Interim Use Proposal – Center of the City Commons (please note this memo was also provided as an attachment to the October 7, 2019 Council meeting under City Administrator Communications). In the time since that communication was provided, the Center of the City Task Force considered a proposal from Mr. Alan Haber to place a DecaDome® on the Library Lot for the purpose of providing a place for people in the downtown to stop and provide their feedback on future uses of the property. Per the attached letter from Mr. Eric Lipson, at its October 2nd meeting the Task force approved a motion to “support Alan Haber engaging in a discussion with City Administration to advance the proposal for a temporary installment of a DecaDome at what is known as the Library Lot site. By voice vote the motion carried.”

Ms. Heather Seyfarth and I met with Mr. Haber and Mr. Lipson last week, during which they presented the attached proposal. The use of this lot for this purpose falls under the DDA, however there is an associated expenditure of City funding required. The source of funds would be the amount Council approved in the FY20 budget for the Center of the City Task Force – decreasing the amount available to the Task Force for other services. In addition to rental of the dome, costs would also be incurred for utilities and a temporary hire to staff the dome. I have asked Ms. Seyfarth to work with the Task Force and staff to move this initiative forward. Specifically, I would like to present the complete cost to the Task Force so they can make an informed choice as to the use of its available funds.

While these actions separately do not require Council approval, I do feel that providing this update falls within the spirit of previous Council direction. Kindly share any thoughts or concerns at your convenience.

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