

Memo

To: Mayor Hall
From: Sanya Vitale
cc: City Council
Date: 5/22/23
Re: SPARK Grant Community Input

On May 16, 2023 we sought out community input regarding the City's potential SPARK Grant application. Participants included:

- Patty Schroder with the Strawberry Festival, Hartford Public Library and Chamber of Commerce
- Pete Sinclair with the Lion's Club
- Stephanie Daniels with the Library
- Sandra Banda with the DDA and the Hispanic Heritage Festival
- Angelika Hernandez with the Hispanic Heritage Festival
- Nancy Spoula with the Lion's Club and the United Methodist Church
- Kamryn Kyles with the Hartford School Board
- Megan Sanborn and Victoria with Learn and Grow
- Mark Little and Guest, Community Members
- Joe Deckard with the Veteran's Organization was also consulted but unable to attend.

Council Members attending included Commissioners Danger, Sullivan, Tibbs and Dockter

It was noted that the community wants to ensure that the following are not compromised during design and construction:

Veteran's Memorials	Festival Space	Parking
Monument Memorials	Gathering Space	Access to utilities
Tree Memorials	Restrooms	Seating access

Based on input the following recommendations were relayed to Wightman for inclusion in a plan.

- Upgraded and additional utility connections
- Upgraded lighting
- Upgraded sound system
- A new, larger pavilion in place of the current one with picnic and general seating
- Smaller pavilions in several locations with picnic seating
- A parking area in the Michigan St. lot
- A fence around at least the west side of the park, with gates for access
- Roughly 50% want to see a seasonal ice-skating rink (the synthetic ice version)
- Roughly 70% want to see garden areas with seating
- Roughly 50 % want to see skate park features
- Roughly 50% want to see water features
- Everyone consulted wants to see a playscape with ADA features
- Mr. Deckard noted when we spoke that he would like to see an additional Veteran's Memorial for veterans of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan