

STAFF MEMO

Meeting Date: November 14, 2024

Staff Contact: Leslie Herring

Worksession Item: Receive presentation from Port Architecture and Urbanism, LLC of park design community engagement activities and resulting design approaches

Background/Description of Item

In January 2024, City staff presented a report detailing the history, current status, and future of creating a feature park in Westwood. [That report is available via this link to the January 11, 2024 City Council meeting packet.](#) In June 2024, the City Council approved an agreement with PORT Urbanism, LLC for professional services for park planning and design. [That staff report is available via this link to the June 13, 2024 City Council meeting packet.](#) Since that time, the process has run [generally] as detailed in that report and as reproduced here:

Full Planning Process

- 2024 Q1: Create park steering committee process, draft RFP for review by committee, determine and invite committee members
- 2024 Q2: Park steering committee and RFQ issuance for park planning professional services
- 2024 Q3 – Q4: Park planning and public engagement; park design development

Future steps in the park process are contingent on the City's ability to close on the sale of the City property and purchase of the Shawnee Mission School District property where the former Westwood View Elementary School sits. (Detailed background information is available here, on the City's website: <https://www.westwoodks.org/projects-and-plans/page/5000-rainbow>.) **If and only if** the property sale/purchase closes between the City, Karbank, and the Shawnee Mission School District, the following steps would then take place (the timeline would be modified depending on when the sale actually closes):

- 2025 Q1: Park design recommendation finalized and submitted to Planning Commission and City Council for acceptance
- 2025 Q2 – Q3: Engineering and site plan submitted for formal review and approval
- 2025 Q4 – 2026 Q1: Construction documents and building permits developed; construction contractor bidding
- 2026 Q2 - 2027 Q3: Construction (construction timeline depends on final design)
- Oktoberfest 2027: Ribbon cutting

The City has continued with park visioning and planning efforts in anticipation of a favorable ruling from the courts.

Staff Comments

The park design team has worked closely with the 15-member, community-led Park Planning Steering Committee for the past four (4) months guide the park planning and community engagement process. Throughout the month of October, community input was sought by PORT and, in November, design approaches have been created in response to the received input. Tonight's presentation by the PORT team will provide an overview of the work performed to-date to develop park design possibilities. Feedback and guidance on the designs will be sought by PORT and integrated into the next design iterations, to take place if, and only if, the property sale/purchase takes place between the City, Karbank, and the Shawnee Mission School District.

No formal action is sought at this worksession/community presentation.