

Schaad, Erin

From: Howington, Jane <jhowington@hudson.oh.us>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Hanink, Dennis
Cc: City Council and Mayor
Subject: RE: Parks Survey

Dennis.

When the park board consultant submitted their draft report, Frank, Jody and I all reviewed it and expressed our concern for the amount of programming questions in the draft. We also wanted the board to understand that a member of council brought up the issue of a rec center at a council session (I believe the last one in July) indicating that it sounds as if Council should look into this at some point since members of the public have raised the issue repeatedly. That brief discussion was followed up during one of the earlier August Council sessions and it was my impression from that discussion that Council wanted to discuss the issue further. At least Hal and Bill mentioned a citizen ad hoc group.

In following up with Bill as to when we should schedule this discussion, he felt sometime toward the end of the year after we got through the budget and other time sensitive issues. I took that as sometime later in November or early December.

I believe there was some park board member upset at our edits on the draft survey and I was told the park board wanted a meeting with Council. That's when I called Keith and suggested he discuss their concerns with their Council liaison who could relay the concerns to the body of Council. Shortly thereafter I informed you that Keith may be in touch on this matter. The next Friday morning Dan Williams told me he had been contacted by a park board member who expressed frustration on this matter. I told Dan that we felt programming did not belong in the survey as that area is currently under the purview of HCER.

We also discussed briefly if a survey were to be done by a citizen ad hoc group on a rec center, would it be better to combine surveys to avoid citizen survey fatigue. I believe all members of Council know there is a standing Friday morning meeting to review the agenda for the upcoming week before it gets published. I also believe members of Council know they can attend these sessions though we try to keep the attendance under a quorum.

As you have attended these meetings in the past, I'm sure you have participated in discussions during these meetings and I use the opportunity for input or suggestions on issues that may be coming up.

There was never any intention or direction for the park survey to stop. Frank's first point below was to keep moving forward with the development of the questions and survey tool. When it is ready we will know more if there are multiple opportunities to combine or consolidate various surveys if there is even a desire to have other surveys developed.

I believe there is some sensitivity on the park board due to the long delays and/or discussions on the skate park. So having another contentious issue so soon after that was unsettling. Again, my suggestion to the park board chair was to use their liaison for clarification and I'm glad they did.

Jane

From: Hanink, Dennis <dhanink@hudson.oh.us>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Howington, Jane <jhowington@hudson.oh.us>
Cc: City Council and Mayor <council@hudson.oh.us>
Subject: Parks Survey

Jane

Good morning. I was far behind in dealing with my emails and council business after the Labor Day weekend as well as with other responsibilities.

The park survey was one email topic that I had put aside. I did not realize that the blizzard of email exchanges among board members was about whether or not the board should conduct its planned survey at all. Shame on me.

You had spoken with me prior to our 9/10 workshop about the survey questions having to do with programming and we agreed that was not appropriate. Then in a meeting with Trent and Frank last Friday prior to the Monday park board meeting, I was informed that the issue was whether the survey should be conducted at all. My position with Trent and Frank was that the board should proceed with the survey without programming or rec center questions. I stated my opinion to you afterward, as I assume Frank did also.

I gave my opinion to the park board Monday. Namely, that they should proceed with a survey that addresses the park system as it is currently constituted, but without any questions related to programming and a potential recreation center. I had advised them in the Spring that the survey should not include rec center related questions as council had been reluctant to initiate such a project again. And Tuesday, I reported on the park board meeting during the council comment section.

I have been curious what caused the turmoil among the park board members. I am finally digging out of the email pile and I think I understand what it was. It was the email below that Trent Wash sent to the park board, and me. It is self-explanatory, but it also shines a light a dynamic that has been alluded to on a number of occasions.

Note the comments that I have highlighted in red. Somehow a meeting of you and "some council members" became a full council directive to stop the survey. Further, perhaps as stated in the email, the council wishes to consider the rec center question, but I have not been a party to any meeting to discuss an approach in any detail.

There simply has not been any council mandate or direction on this survey, other than authorizing the survey expenditure. To make a statement to any board or citizen group on any subject as a council directive or decision when nothing of the sort has been made is destructive of council, the city and orderly proceedings.

Dennis Hanink