

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 23,2023

A Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., by President Todd Angerman.

Members present were Todd Angerman, Mike Gruszka, John Alessia, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Manager Craig Hendrix, GIS Director Greg White, Police Chief Jim Woestman, and Town Attorney David Westland. Also present was one member of the press, and approximately fifty citizens and town representatives. Also present via Zoom was Executive Director Bill Hanna from the Dean & Barbara White Family Foundation. The purpose of the work session was to make a special announcement that the town had been awarded a 3.5 million dollar grant from the Dean & Barbara White Family Foundation.

Town Manager Craig Hendrix thanked everyone for coming, and stated a press release had been prepared to announce the award of the \$3.5 million grant from the Dean & Barbara White Family Foundation for the renovation of Liberty Park. Mr. Hendrix reviewed the plan, designed by SEH, which will feature an outdoor amphitheater for hosting music and theater venues, a community building for hosting public or private events, new restrooms, a splash pad, playground and outdoor shelter. Parking lots are proposed along Washington, Liberty and Main Street. He stated the town portion of the project would be paid for through bonds and a portion from the sale of the water utility. Mr. Hendrix further explained other infrastructure improvements planned in the area including federal grants applied for Washington Street and Mill Street. He reviewed a projected map of improvements for roadway projects, parking lot improvements, and the design for the Freedom Trail that will connect Freedom Park to the William Nassau Park and the historic downtown.

Bill Hanna, Executive Director of the White Foundation, thanked the community for the outpouring of support after the passing of Bruce White. Mr. Hanna stated the approval for the gift was one of the last things Mr. Bruce wanted to get done before his passing. He said the White family has deep roots in the Lowell/Shelby area, and after reviewing the site plan they were proud and excited to be a partnership with the Town of Lowell for the development of the William Nassau Park. Mr. Hanna stated the plan would of been described by Mr. White as sustainability, equity and hospitality.

Town Manager Hendrix stated the project is expected to be bid out in late summer, with a completion date of Summer of 2025. He stated the growth of the park would include additional full and part time employees.

Town Council members remarked they were grateful the project was being completed and thanked the White Foundation for their generosity, and bringing to life this truly game changing project.

Members of the Nassau family, including Jan Felder, daughter of Mr. Nassau, stated they were very grateful and thankful for remembering her father, and wished her sisters were present to share the moment. Matt Felder, grandson of Mr. Nassau thanked the White Foundation for their donations and their condolence on the passing of Mr. White. He stated the White Foundation has made a huge impact in the area for many of years with their generosity and the employees they have taken care of for many years and stated it is an honor they remembered his grandfather. He thanked the Town Council for initiating the project.

Citizens in the audience applauded the award of the gift from the White Foundation.

The work session adjourned at 6:35 P.M.


Todd Angerman, President

Attest:


Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer