

March 30, 2022

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: John P. Curp, Interim City Manager **202200823**

SUBJECT: Rapid Run Park and Dunham Recreation Area Community Engagement

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202000230

The City Council, at its session on February 20, 2020, adopted the following Motion:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmember Mann, WE MOVE that the City administration support a planning process in West Price Hill and Westwood in the area surround Rapid Run Park and Dunham Recreation Center, including Rapid Run, Sunset Avenue, Guerley Road and portions of the Lick Run project along Queen City Avenue to determine if there is a way to better utilize and connect these critical city assets, considering streetscaping, traffic calming and bike and pedestrian paths. WE FURTHER MOVE that the planning process should solicit input from the surrounding neighborhoods, including the West Price Hill Community Council, the Westwood Civic Association the Rapid Run Park Advisory Committee, the Dunham Recreation Advisory Committee, the West Price Hill Merchants Association, the Westwood Coalition as well as biking and pedestrian groups. (STATEMENT ATTACHED)

Background

City Council moved that the Administration support a planning process in West Price Hill and Westwood in the area surrounding Rapid Run Park and Dunham Recreation Center - including Rapid Run, Sunset Avenue, Guerley Road and portions of the Lick Run project along Queen City Avenue - to determine if there is a way to better utilize and connect these critical city assets, considering streetscaping, traffic calming and bike and pedestrian paths. The motion also moved that the planning process solicit input from the surrounding neighborhoods, including the West Price Hill Community Council, the Westwood Civic Association the Rapid Run Park Advisory Committee, the Dunham Recreation Advisory Committee, the West Price Hill Merchants Association, the Westwood Coalition as well as biking and pedestrian groups. This report outlines the process that the Administration undertook to obtain the desired feedback about these underutilized City assets.

Please note that due to the pandemic and staffing changes, this report was previously unreleased. The Administration is seeking to release now to ensure that it is in the legislative record.

Process

- The Department of City Planning and Engagement organized a stakeholder meeting with City department leadership (Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Cincinnati Park Board, and the Department of Transportation & Engineering (DOTE)) to develop a survey to obtain the desired feedback and to discuss goals and feasibility of what could be done to build on these assets.

- The following project website was created, where links to the survey, survey results, and all meeting materials have been posted: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/rapidrundunhamconnection.
- Reached out to stakeholders in East Price Hill, West Price Hill, Westwood, and other community groups including Price Hill Will, Tri-State Trails, etc. to share the survey to gather feedback and obtain email addresses to contact stakeholders for future engagement opportunities.
 - 98 people took the survey
- Three virtual public engagement meetings were scheduled at the following dates and times:
 - Monday, December 7, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, December 17, 2020 – 1:30 p.m.
 - Friday, December 18, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
- The feedback from these meetings was gathered in a virtual mapping activity where assets, challenges, and opportunities were identified using dots and comment boxes, similar to the mapping activity done at an in-person meeting.
- An additional meeting to share the feedback and answer any questions about the process was held on the following date:
 - Thursday, January 28, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
- The feedback of the highest community priorities has been shared with leadership from the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Cincinnati Park Board, and DOTE to prioritize what improvements can be made immediately and what needs additional planning/funding.
- A summary of the feedback will be presented to the West Price Hill Community Council and the Westwood Civic Association.

Deliverables

- A summary of the survey results and completed map activities from the three public meetings.
- A recommendation of priorities of improvements to better connect these areas to each other and the surrounding area.

Next Steps

The Department of City Planning and Engagement will continue to assist the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Cincinnati Park Board, and Department of Transportation and Engineering, where able, in the process for implementation. The Administration has provided Council with the referenced deliverables as attachments to this report.

Attachments

cc: Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP, Director, Department of City Planning and Engagement
 Daniel Betts, Director, Cincinnati Recreation Commission
 John Neyer, Interim Director, Cincinnati Park Board
 John Brazina, Director, Department of Transportation and Engineering