

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on September 6, 2022 at 6:11 PM, following the Special Called Meeting of the Public Facilities Authority. Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Staff Discussion Items

- A. **2022-229** Consideration to Apply for a Grant with the Environmental Protection Division to Establish a Composting Program

Catherine Mercier-Baggett, Sustainability Manager, presented a grant application to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD), which proposes to conduct a pilot composting program for Sandy Springs residents. The Recovered Materials Unit of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division administers the Recycling, Waste Reduction, and Diversion Grant. This grant supports local governments in efforts to “reduce solid waste, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing and encourage innovation”. Applications are due September 30, 2022 with awards expected by January 2023.

The City of Sandy Springs staff is collaborating with the City of Dunwoody, and Master Gardeners, Keep Beautiful affiliates and the UGA Coop Extension in both Fulton and DeKalb County, to develop a joint proposal to deliver composting options for their respective residents. Two options would be available to residents: (1) A loan program for composting bins that can be installed on a residential property, and (2) collection bins that would be located in centralized locations and serviced by a third-party. If awarded the grant, Sandy Springs residents could have access to 500 backyard bins and three drop-off locations throughout the city during the first year of the grant. The second year would likely provide 500 additional bins and one more year of servicing three drop-off locations. Residents will have access to compost to amend their soil, and the amount of waste sent to landfills will be reduced. The success of the program will be closely monitored.

There is no match required for this grant. Staff recommends the City applying for \$95,000 grant funds and providing a match of in-kind staff time. The \$95,000 covers the cost of collection at the three sites, 1,000 bins, and educational materials and programs. The total amount of the request remains to be determined as Staff waits for the City of Dunwoody to develop its portion of the budget.

In developing the pilot program, City reviewed example cities primarily in Florida, such as Largo, the whole Tampa region, Orlando.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked if the Master Gardeners, Keep Beautiful affiliates and the UGA Coop Extension are confirmed to participate in this effort.

Sustainability Manager Mercier-Baggett, responded yes.

Councilmember Jody Reichel asked how long does the \$95,000 cover servicing at the three locations.

Sustainability Manager Mercier-Baggett replied the \$95,000 includes coverages two years of service for the three collection sites. After two years, the City will need to determine whether or not to continue with the program and how to fund it. The current quote Staff received is \$21,000 per year for the three locations, which includes returning the compost to the community.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated there is a concern about about the drop-off locations and how often the pickups would occur, as they could get unsightly. City will need to make sure that they do pick it up on a timely basis.

Catherine Mercier-Baggett, Sustainability Manager, responded absolutely. It is not certain if the collection sites will receive yard waste, but definitely food scraps and cardboard will be accepted.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio stated there have complaints about food scraps and composting and critters. What do we plan to do to address that problem?

Sustainability Manager Mercier-Baggett stated the bins at the drop off collection are rolloff carts that are closed. It is also budgeted to include some sort of closure or fencing. Because they are collecting twice a week, this is not anticipated to be a problem. The the backyard bins are fully enclosed and should limit odors.

Councilmember Melissa Mular asked how much staff time is required.

Sustainability Manager Mercier-Baggett responded it is difficult to gage, but staff is still evaluating, but should not be very taxing. Staff will manage the contract with the third party vendor and make sure educational events are conducted and materials are shared. Staff will also distribute bins strategically around for collection.

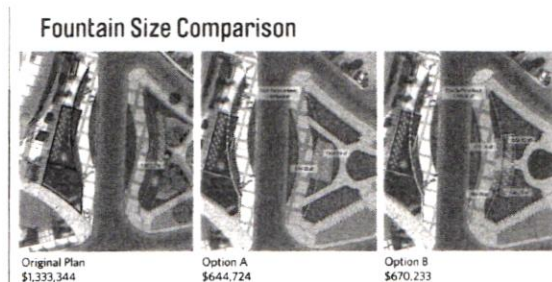
Mayor Rusty Paul advised Staff to proceed.

B. 2022-230 Veterans Memorial Park Overview and Water Fountain Concepts

Dave Wells, Director of Facilities/Capital Construction and Building Operations, introduced John Fish of Barge Design Solution to discuss Veterans Park fountains and core area.

John Fish, Barge Design Solutions, reviewed the Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan and the current design options for the fountain and core area of the park, the triangle-area. The original concept was to create a gateway element as one comes to the park on Roswell Road.

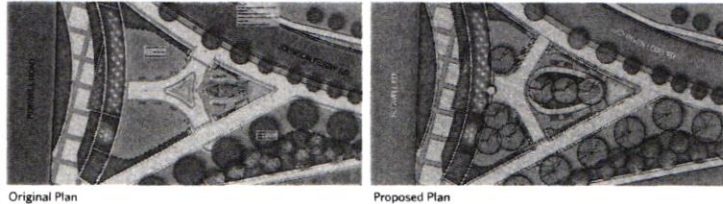
Designs options include reducing the size of the fountain.



Consultants also reviewed the cost of landscaping needed if the fountain were removed from the design, which is estimated to be \$280,000.

There were initial meetings with the veterans group and to discuss the scale and size of the area. The central triangle was intended to be the location of a future commissioned sculpture, with the oval area being the Veterans Memorial Area. During discussions, it was realized the core area was smaller than maybe it should be. Consultants have looked at expanding the oval area to fit the space and shift the location of the signature sculpture so it is more forward and potentially integrate it with the fountain.

Core Area Plans - Comparison



Dave Wells, Director of Facilities/Capital Construction and Building Operations, stated Staff researched the potential of creating a pedestrian bridge across Roswell Rd. Consultants Reeves Young and Atkins provided an estimate for construction, which is between \$4,000,000 to \$7,000,000. At its highest point, the bridge will be 38 feet high. There are transmission lines that need at least 25 feet of vertical clearance. Georgia Power advised there will need to be extra engineering to determine if Pole 37 will need to be raised higher. Pole 37 is part of the TS-191 project, and the City is already contracted with Georgia Power to relocate the pole. The City has already paid Georgia Power \$1.5 million for the work required for TS-191, scheduled to begin in December. If Council chooses to pursue the bridge, Georgia Power will need to conduct an engineering study which would cost the City about \$100,000 and will take six months to complete. Additionally, if new poles need to be ordered, then it would be about \$750,000 per pole with about a year and a half to fabricate and install the poles. This would severely delay the TS-191 and Veterans projects.

Pedestrian Bridge



Reeves Young and Atkins high level estimate for design and construction of the pedestrian bridge is \$4M - \$7M depending on final design

There are two potential locations for the marquee signs.

Marquee Sign - (2) Proposed Locations



It is estimated the City will see a return on investment for the marquee in one to two years, which is a conservative estimate.

Staff first requires guidance on the fountain designs.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio stated the original plan with fountains on both sides of Roswell Road, creating an entry way and welcoming area, is the best option. The entire park is not Veterans Park. Only a portion of the park has a dedicated memorial. The pedestrian bridge is wasting \$4,000,000 to \$7,000,000. This is not favorable, especially since it will delay the TSPLOST project by a year or so. It is favorable to making the memorial section the size of the oval area on Market Place, so the sculpture will be more accessible from Roswell.

Councilmember John Paulson agreed with Councilmember Tibby DeJulio. The original plan was to make the fountains balanced on both sides of Roswell Road. The bridge is not worth the money involved. The larger oval is needed.

Councilmember Jody Reichel agreed the bridge is going to cost too much. Though, the plantings are more favorable than the fountains. There could be a walkway in the middle of the plantings. The fountain is a lot. Many people like the planting as well. With the planting you can still do the larger oval.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked about the noise cancellation effect of the fountains.

Director Wells replied that did come up during the meetings with the veterans. That is one of the reasons the fountains were put in front of the performing arts center, which is the same on the Veterans side. This would provide peace and tranquility to block the road noise while at the park.

Mr. Fish confirmed the traffic sound is muted by the fountain.

Councilmember Melissa Mular stated the original design of the fountains is favorable, as it creates a balance and a gateway. The veteran tribute should not be reduced since this is already been part of the plan and veterans have been a part of this committee. As far as the pedestrian bridge, the cost outweighs the benefits. The marquees are a great idea.

Councilmember Andy Bauman asked how much water will be utilized by the fountain. What is the ongoing cost?

Mr. Fish responded, as a point of reference, the fountain at the performing arts center is a bit larger than what is proposed for the park. The performing arts center fountain total water volume for the current fountain is about 42,000 gallons, with an 18-inch pool depth. That water is circulated, turned over, and filtered constantly. There is evaporation that occurs depending on several factors, with an average water loss of 1,500 to 2,000 gallons each day. The team is reviewing accessing the City Springs cistern system to help make up the water loss. While the fountain is currently connected to the cistern, it is not accessing the cistern water.

Councilmember Bauman stated he cannot support that idea and never supported current location for the Veterans Park. I certainly defer to Councilmember DeJulio and Councilmember Paulson on that wish. I do not see many congregating here. Water usage should have been discussed before the fountains were put here. From a cost standpoint, I do not support it. I am thrilled with the marquees and glad we are done with the bridge.

Mayor Rusty Paul called for a show of hands, all those in favor of the options:

- Original Plan Option: Councilmember John Paulson, Councilmember Melissa Mular, Councilmember Tibby DeJulio
- Option A: None
- Option B: Councilmember Melody Kelley
- Option with no fountain and plantings: Councilmember Jody Reichel, Councilmember Andy Bauman

Mayor Rusty Paul stated there is consensus of the most votes being for the original plan and directed staff to move forward.

George Bushey, Art Sandy Springs, presented an update on the Veterans art. Arts Sandy Springs has met with Barge Design on the sculpture, facilitated a visions workshop with the veterans committee, researched sculpture artist, investigated sculpture costs, reviewed precedents for veterans sculptures, and looked into local artists. If directed by Council, Art Sandy Springs will next release an RFQ/CFE to a targeted list. Local artists will be included. A short list of respondents will be reviewed by the veterans committee and Art Sandy Springs. Three short listed artists will be invited to submit sculpture design mockups for a design stipend, and Arts Sandy Springs and the veterans committee will make a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council will select the winning design and sculptor.

Councilmember Reichel asked can the art piece go in the middle of the oval, especially since the oval will be larger.

Mr. Bushey replied the idea is to get the sculpture closer to the fountain.

Cherrie Morris, Art Sandy Springs, getting the sculpture closer to the fountain so it can be seen by the passing vehicle traffic too and part of the gateway element, possibly elevated near the fountain. If in the middle of the oval, the piece may be obscured by the trees. There are still options to review, including sculptures with two components.

Councilmember Kelley asked would the sculpture be easier to see from the road given the fountain sized detailed in Option B.

Ms. Morris replied the sculpture could be raised on a base in the other options.

Mr. Fish noted another reason to bring the sculpture closer to Roswell Road would include creating scale and presence, possibly illuminating the piece at night.

Mayor Paul advised there is still a long way to go following the review of the presented schematics, including the selection of the art. Adjustments are being made to the core of the park, but there will be a lot of opportunity to discuss these additional details.

Councilmember Paulson stated the sculpture should be realistic and touchable, so moving to the fountain draws people to visit with it.

City Council Discussion Items

There being to further discussion, the meeting ended at 6:58 p.m.

Approved: October 18, 2022



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Karina Reyna, Assistant City Clerk