



# WILDWOOD

February 15, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Parks Committee Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Update of 'Friends of Belleview' Request for Pre-Funding of Reimbursable Grant Application (Wards – All)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Administration and Public Works Committee Members  
Economic Development Committee Members  
Steve Cross, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Gary Crews, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation  
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

**BACKGROUND >>>** In November of last year, the Department presented a request from the Friends of Belleview about another grant opportunity that is still available that year from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). This grant program was, again, intended to facilitate the removal of invasive vegetation, and then follow with a restoration program upon the land area that has been cleared. The grant process was nearing the end of its cycle for applications and some of the components, as described by the representatives of the organization, were different than in past grants and these differences led to the need for the City to potentially participate in this opportunity. The major difference related to the funding sequences and how and when the community's match needed to be provided/committed to the State agency.

The Members of the Committee had a number of questions about this matter, some of which the Department could not address to the degree it wanted and led to the discussion concluding, with the direction to discuss the matter with the local representative of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and obtain greater clarification in this regard, along with any insights about changes in funding process. The Department did have a conversation with Mark Grueber, the local forester and local advisor on this grant process, and his direction was to wait until 2022 for the application to be submitted to ensure it is complete and all the funding considerations could be better understood between the

parties. Mr. Grueber noted this grant process is on-going, so an application could be submitted in the early part of 2022, if the parties would chose to proceed.

**NEXT STEPS >>>** The Department, based upon the advice of the State's representative from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), is recommending this matter be withdrawn from the Committee's active agenda and no further action be taken upon it at this time. It is anticipated that a grant application will be proposed this year, but, when such is underway, the Committee can then take up its review at that time as a new consideration. Accordingly, the Department will be seeking a motion, second, and voice vote to remove this item from the Committee's agenda.

**CONTACT INFORMATION >>>** If any of the Committee Members have questions or comments regarding this process, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. A presentation on this matter is planned at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your review of this information and the requested direction the Department is seeking on this matter.