

Duffer, Erin

From: Sue Bulk <suebee4147@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Acklin, Tim; Duffer, Erin; Kiel, Mac; Mindel, Mackenzie
Cc: Richmond, Andrea; Neumeister, Scott; Janssen, Barb; Sleznikow, Larry; Weaver, Justice; Kahlow, Chris; Woodard, Chris; Schwarz, Rebecca; Trost, Jennifer; Happel, Douglas; Neumann, Mark
Subject: Weigent Park shelter and 2022 CIP Budget

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Dear Erin, Tim, and City Council members,

We have just spent a year and a half under the shadow CoVid and our lives have changed in so many ways. One of the best things to come out of this time is the slowing down of our lives and a resurgence of enjoying and partaking of all things local. We can ride bikes in a much friendlier atmosphere. There are groups working on adding and improving local trails. It is wonderful to get outside (and fortunately for us, relatively uninterrupted by covid) and get together again! I feel a certain joy when I walk or bike or hike and I see our ability to share and rejoice in our local beauty.

One place where this feeling of city and neighborhood camaraderie is in full force is Weigent Park--a jewel in the center of the city and an anchor for several neighborhoods and community organizations. Sure, it could use some sprucing up (e.g., lighting, new fencing), but many improvements have already been made (ga-ga ball, Babe Weigent statue, tennis courts and playground). The shelter at Weigent is somewhat embarrassing in this vital neighborhood.

The Weigent park shelter has been in the works for years. WHNA saved some of its most recent CIP money to put toward a new one. We have worked with Parks and Rec and an architect in planning for a new and much more useful home for Recreation programs, for neighborhood meetings and parties, and for facilities for those who make good use of the park. It is a center for leisure for area schools, UWL, GENA, WHNA. It is close to Washburn and Holy Trinity/Longfellow neighborhoods as well.

Please consider adding to the existing funds by including \$200,000 to the 2022 CIP budget so there is enough to get this project that has been in the works since 2016 finished.

Thank you.

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