

Resolution declaring Wittenberg Park as surplus property and authorizing a request for proposals process for development of the parcel.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse owns the parcel 17-10255-100 at 2940 George St, known as Wittenberg Park and it is comprised of approximately 8.5 acres (of which ~3 acres are wetlands); and

WHEREAS, a title search and historical background on the park has revealed no liens on the property or deed requirements that this property remain dedicated park land; and

WHEREAS, this property was obtained by the City in a land swap with the City of La Crosse Housing Authority in 1978; who had purchased the land for building housing but was unable to complete the project at the time; and

WHEREAS, Wittenberg Park has low utilization due to its poor location and previously was the site of drug and crime issues; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse Parks and Recreation Department is looking for ways to save on annual operating costs and focus on improving parks with the highest usage; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse is experiencing a low supply of new quality housing and it is the opinion of staff that the best use of this property is for taxable residential housing; and

WHEREAS, that while this property is challenged by the wetlands, proximity to I-90, its location in the 100-year flood plain; City staff have determined that with remediation, this land is developable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of the La Crosse that Wittenberg Park is declared surplus property and no longer dedicated for park purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Planning and Development Department, under the oversight of the Community Development Committee, shall issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop the property into taxable housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Planning and Development Department shall conduct community input meetings with surrounding property owners of the development to receive input on the design of the RFP and shall facilitate follow-on meetings with the neighborhood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RFP evaluation committee shall be composed of the Community Development Committee and the Council Member serving the district this site is located in.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any sale proceeds from the land shall go towards funding capital improvements at parks on the Northside of La Crosse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED City staff is authorized to take any further action to effectuate this resolution.