

To the Members of the City CIP Planning Committee

June 18, 2020

Subject: The Weigent Park Shelter,

I realize that the pandemic has forced a new reality upon our City but I want to reach out and submit a letter of support for the building of a functional meeting room in Weigent Park, with an opening in 2021.

In 2019 approximately 20 neighbors from Weigent Hogan participated in a CIP review meeting held in the Council Hall. Many of us spoke of the importance.

Our reasons for the new shelter are many but here is my summary:

- Weigent Hogan Neighborhood has 5700 residence and the Park is the “Gem” of the neighborhood. Following John Nolen guidelines for a happy City, (10 minutes walking to a park and green space) The Park impacts over 8,000 citizens.
- Weigent Park does not have a meeting area. The Association has to beg for space from churches and temples and the lack of having a space suppresses the chance to build critical community fellowship opportunities.
- The current shelter, built over 40 years ago devalues the area where well over \$1,000,000 has been spent to build and renovate properties surrounding the Park. I serve as a tour guide for the historical society and spend a lot of time presenting the incredible architecture of the City. As we passed the park on one of those river boat cruise tours I was asked if the shelter represented our best example of early “hillbilly”. Funny...but well you get my point.
- The WHNA with their 2018 award of \$375,000 have been able to do some great things in collaboration with the City, new playground, Cass/21<sup>st</sup> beacon, 100 mature tree plantings. We have dedicated the remaining balance of the award, \$100,000 to the City for this project and the City has more than matched that contribution with another \$300,000.

As a neighbor I feel strongly that especially during these stressed times, a significant, meaningful addition to the Park would have a very positive affect.

Thanks for your consideration.

Greg Clark

VP, Board Member WHNA

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