



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Safety and Public Works Committee Agenda Via Zoom Thursday, September 7, 2023, 8:00am

This meeting is being held remotely (Zoom) pursuant to Chapters 113 and 115 of the Codified Ordinances (as amended in Ordinance 22-28), and Resolution 22-29, enacted on March 22, 2022.

Join the Zoom meeting as a viewer or listener from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device. Join online at: <https://zoom.us/j/98995406807?pwd=NTIJeWxkOU5xOU5kM3doRE5xMy9DUT09>, Password: 33553400; Description: Safety and Public Works Committee; or join by phone at 833-548-0282 (toll free); Webinar ID: 989 9540 6807; Password: 33553400. International numbers available at: <https://zoom.us/u/aUZB20ML>.

1. Approval of August 3rd Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[SAFETY PUBLIC WORK MEETING MINUTES- AUGUST 3RD.PDF](#)

2. Lower Lake Multipurpose Trail Recommendation to Award Design and Engineering Contract
Presenter: Ann Mates

Documents:

[UPDATED MEMO-LOWER LAKE MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD DESIGN AND ENGINEERING CONTRACT.PDF](#)

3. LPA Federal Local-Let Project Agreement for PID 113197, CUY-Shaker Hts. VAD
Pedestrian Improvements

Presenter: Kara Hamley-O'Donnell

Documents:

[2023-09-07 SPW LPA AGREEMENT FOR PID 113197 VAD PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS.PDF](#)

4. ARPA Wellness and Retention Grant
Presenter, Pat Sweeney, Chief of Fire

Documents:

[ARPA WELLNESS AND RETENTION GRANT.PDF](#)

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SHAKER HEIGHTS

**SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY AUGUST 3, 2023
8:00 AM
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

Members Present: Tres Roeder, Council Chairperson
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member
Carmella Williams, Council Member
Patricia Speese, Director Public Works
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire
Sara Schiavoni, Citizen Member
James Sammon, Citizen Member
Kim Harris, Citizen Member

Others Present: Jeri Chaikin, CAO
Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police
Alexandria Nichols, Director of Recreation
John Cole, Police Commander
Kara Hamley-O'Donnell, Senior Planner
Megan Sakacs, Recording Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tres Roeder at 8:00 am.

APPROVAL OF JULY 6, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Council Chair Roeder asked for a motion to approve the July 6, 2023 Safety and Public Works minutes. A motion was made by Citizen Member Jonathan Hren, and seconded by Citizen Member James Sammon. The motion carried.

PICKLEBALL DISCUSSION

Alexandria Nichols, Director of Recreation

Director Nichols requested a discussion with the Safety & Public Works Committee to discuss the ongoing resident complaints pertaining to the Pickle ball Courts. Director Nichols shared a PowerPoint presentation with the committee, following the presentation discussion was opened up for any ideas/suggestions on what, if any future options to consider. Director Nichols, as well as some of the committee members mentioned that pickle ball is a very popular, inexpensive sport that has become very popular over the last few years, yet have some challenges regarding parking and noise complaints. Citizen Member James Sammon stated that he thinks this is a very good thing for the community and would love to see it expand throughout the city. Citizen Member James Sammon stated that a lot of the rules of the pickle ball courts are easily enforceable rules. Council Member Carmella Williams asked if there was particular times of day that the noise and/or parking is worse than other times and if the use of the courts are higher due to the local kids being out of school for summer vacation. Director Nichols thank the committee and residents in attendance for being a part of the discussion, Director Nichols stated that the

next step regarding this issue is to meet with CAO Chaikin, as well as the planning department to discuss some possible solutions to do some sound baffling. Resident Laura Haselman 20108 Lomond Blvd was granted attendance to the meeting and expressed her gratitude for being allowed the opportunity to speak about the noise issue from the pickle ball courts that are located across from her home. Ms. Haselman has lived across from Sussex Park for the past 22 years, she stated that she herself enjoys the game of pickle ball but 12 plus hours a day of hearing “pop, pop, pop” continuously is more then she can take.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 am.

Respectfully,

Tres Roeder, Council Chairperson
Safety & Public Works Committee



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Memorandum

To: Members of Safety and Public Works Committee

CC: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin

From: Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning
Anna Mates, Planner, Planning Department

Subject: Lower Lake Multipurpose Trail Recommendation to Award Design and Engineering Contract

Date: August 23, 2023

This memo recommends awarding a design and engineering contract to GPD Group in the amount of \$50,690 for the Lower Lake Multipurpose Trail project.

Project Overview

The City received a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) 2022 Clean Ohio Trails Fund/Recreational Trails Program, to engineer and construct a 10' wide multipurpose trail in the Shaker Lakes Parklands. The proposed trail will be located between Lower Lake and South Park Boulevard from Coventry Road to West Park Boulevard (see attached diagram). The Lower Lake Multipurpose Trail will provide a paved, safe means of accessible, non-motorized transportation and recreational trails along South Park Boulevard and south of Lower Lake, while filling the gap in the cycling and pedestrian network for those who require or prefer an off-road trail by connecting the eastern and western portions of the Shaker Parklands. The trail will improve regional and local recreational trail connections and improve access for all users to the Shaker Lakes.

The Shaker Lakes Parklands are popular for passive recreation, including hiking, walking, biking, and jogging. Nearby residents often access the parklands on foot or by bike. A sidewalk or asphalt path surrounds the Lower Lake except along South Park Boulevard, roughly between Larchmere Boulevard and Brook Road where there is no paved path or sidewalk on either side of South Park. While there is a dirt footpath on the south side of the Lake, roughly parallel with South Park Boulevard, it can be muddy and impassible and is not comfortable for those on bikes, with strollers, or with limited mobility. Cyclists and pedestrians often travel within the South Park Boulevard roadway, sharing the street with vehicles. Considering these existing conditions, the proposed multipurpose trail will:

1. Build missing pedestrian/bicycle connections to complete a paved Lower Lake Loop and connect to the Lake-to-Lakes Trail, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, Shaker park land, and surrounding neighborhoods;
2. Create a connected, accessible, safe trail for pedestrians and cyclists along South Park Boulevard; and

CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS | PLANNING DEPARTMENT

3. Protect environmental resources.

The exact location of the trail has to be determined. Design of the trail, which will include community engagement and coordination with Public Works, will start this Fall with bidding in late Winter/early Spring and construction in 2024. ODNR requires that the funds be spent within 15 months of signing the contract.

The estimated project cost, including engineering, environmental studies, and construction is \$412,962. A \$309,721 ODNR grant and \$103,241 grant match of local Capital Funds have been secured for the project.

Design and Engineering Contract Recommendation

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on July 25, 2023, to 25 engineering, planning, and landscape architecture firms. The list includes many from the State of Ohio’s list of MBE and WBE engineers. The RFP was sent to the Urban League and also posted on websites of the American Planning Association, the Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the GCP Inclusion Marketplace, and the City of Shaker Heights. The RFP requested proposals from teams of qualified professional engineers and landscape architects to engineer detailed design plans, construction drawings, and bid documents for the Lower Lake Multipurpose Trail. Two teams submitted proposals on August 21:

Consultant Team	Engineering Fee	Environmental Work	Total Fee
GPD Group	\$38,730	\$11,960	\$50,690
New River Engineers, Inc.*	\$38,750	*not provided	\$38,750

The proposals were evaluated on specific criteria, including: experience with similar projects, proposed project approach, experience of the project manager, and DEI strategy. Only one firm met these criteria and was short-listed for an interview by the selection committee comprised of Joyce Braverman, Kara Hamley O’Donnell, Chuck Orłowski, Lisa Burgess, and Anna Mates. The selection committee interviewed GPD Group on August 22.

After the interview, the Selection Committee determined that GPD Group provided a proposal that best met the RFP requirements and demonstrated the best qualifications for the project. GPD Group delivers broad experience with trail design including the S.R. 59 Hike and Bike Trail, Warrensville Center Road Streetscape Enhancement, Bridge Park Bike Trail Connector, Summit Metro Parks Freedom Trail, and Brand Road and Muirfield Drive Shared-Use Path. The team, which includes Lawhon & Associates and G & T, was selected due to their extensive experience with trail and multipurpose path design.

The City has worked extensively with GPD Group on a variety of projects. Even though a proposal was received with a lower fee, consultant services are evaluated on qualifications. It should be noted that the fee difference is due to GPD including the required work for ecological and cultural surveys in their fee, while New River Engineers did not. New River Engineers did not include a landscape architect on their team, as required in the RFP.

Recommendation

We ask that the Safety and Public Works Committee recommend to Council to award the design and engineering contract to GPD Group for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,690. The budget for the engineering is comprised of both ODNR grant funds and local match funds already contained in the General Capital Fund. References were checked and are excellent for GPD Group. This contract includes the design and engineering work, and any required environmental documents, for the entire \$412,962 project.





SHAKER HEIGHTS

Memorandum

To: Members of the Safety & Public Works Committee

From: Joyce G. Braverman, Director, Planning
Kara Hamley O'Donnell, Principal Planner, Planning
Christian Maier, Assistant Director, Public Works

cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin
William Gruber, Director, Law
Patricia Speese, Director, Public Works
John Potts, Director, Finance

Date: August 21, 2023

Re: LPA Federal Local-Let Project Agreement for PID 113197, CUY-Shaker Hts.
VAD Pedestrian Improvements (Van Aken District Public Realm)

The City of Shaker Heights has received Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) funding for the Local Public Agency Project (LPA) pedestrian improvements as foreseen in the 2020 [Van Aken District Public Realm Plan](#). The project will enhance the Warrensville Van Aken Transit Station, creating a high-quality waiting environment with adequate shelter and facilities, attractive and functional pedestrian and bicycle amenities, a plaza, public art, and a strong connection to the adjacent commercial district and neighborhoods. The City of Shaker Heights is administering the project which includes design, construction, inspection, and management.

Construction drawings and bid documents for the Van Aken District public realm improvement project are nearing completion. This project will better integrate the transit station into the Van Aken District, connect the station to the neighborhood, and set the design direction for further implementation of area public realm improvements. The design will provide amenities for transit riders, pedestrians, cyclists, and provide a beautiful environment where people feel safe and comfortable in all seasons, day and night.

The LPA program is a partnership between Federal Highway (FHWA), ODOT and Local Public Agencies to develop, plan and construct projects with Federal, State, and Local Funds. As part of the LPA process, ODOT is requesting to enter into an agreement with the City.

The estimated 2024 construction cost is \$2,110,000 and includes construction and construction administration/inspection. Design fees with MKSK were approved earlier this year and are not included in the aforementioned project cost. As stated in the LPA Federal Local-Let Project Agreement, the maximum amount of federal funds to be applied to the project is not to exceed \$1,500,000. The City of Shaker Heights is obligated to provide \$610,000 for our share as illustrated in the table below. The total project cost is \$2,341,653.

	ODOT Share	City Share	Total Project Cost
Design	N/A	\$231,653	
Construction	\$1,500,000	\$375,000	
Construction Admin / Inspection	N/A	\$235,000	
Construction/CMCI TOTAL	\$1,500,000	\$610,000	\$2,110,000
TOTAL	\$1,500,000	\$841,653	\$2,341,653

The project will be advertised for bid in November 2023, contract awarded in January 2024, with construction in 2024-2025.

Recommendation

ODOT has provided the necessary documents to execute the Federal LPA Agreement in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500,000 with an expected \$610,000 City match (construction administration & construction), which is included in the 10-year Capital Budget. We ask the Safety and Public Works Committee to recommend that Council approve the necessary legislation so the City can enter into this LPA Federal Local-Let Project Agreement with ODOT for the Shaker Hts. VAD Pedestrian Improvements project.



Memorandum

To: Members of the Safety and Public Works Committee

CC: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin

From: Patrick F. Sweeney, Chief of Fire
Timothy Kohanski, Police Commander

Subject: ARPA Wellness and Retention Grant

Date: September 7, 2023

On May 5, 2022, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that nearly \$70 million in grant funding would be available for the recruitment, retention, and wellness needs of Ohio's First Responders.

The \$70 million in grant funding is part of the \$250 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly dedicated to First Responders to help them counter various pressing issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased stress and decreased staffing levels. Additionally, the grant is designed to address the negative impacts of the pandemic by addressing the mental wellness needs of Ohio's First Responder Community along with providing funding assistance in hiring and retention incentives to promote First Responders to remain in their chosen fields. Law enforcement, Fire, EMS, and Dispatch have seen major staffing issues since the beginning of the pandemic.

After receiving notice of this funding opportunity, and with a short application submittal timeline, both the Fire and Police Chiefs discussed the application process with the City Administration and how these funds would assist our First Responders with wellness and retention concerns.

With the approval from the City Administration, the Fire and Police Departments submitted a grant application to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, seeking grant funding for First Responder bonuses. Additionally, as part of the Fire Department's application, funding was requested to support an ongoing Firefighter Wellness program that has been established.

On August 2, 2023, both the Fire Department and Police Department received notice that our grant applications were approved. The Fire Department was awarded \$224,000 and the Police Department \$216,000 for First Responder Retention Bonuses. These figures equate to a \$4,000 bonus for all uniformed department members who have been employed by their respective agency before June 17, 2022, and must still be employed by the agency at the time of disbursement of the retention incentive. Of note, the State of Ohio has not yet received the final determination regarding whether these retention bonuses are pensionable payments.

Additionally, the Fire Department was awarded a wellness grant in the amount of \$29,400. These funds were requested to support an ongoing Firefighter Health and Wellness program that we have implemented in partnership with John Carroll University.

The Fire Department and Police Department are requesting that the Safety and Public Works Committee accept these grant funds from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. These grant funds will allow the City of Shaker Heights to recognize the stresses that our First Responders experienced during the pandemic while strengthening our retention initiatives and wellness programs.

Specifically, we are requesting that the Safety and Public Works Committee recommend that City Council accept and appropriate accordingly the ARPA grants of \$224,000 awarded for Firefighter retention bonuses, \$216,000 for Police Officer retention bonuses, and \$29,400 for Firefighter Health and Wellness programs.