



## **District Improvement Program Internal Review Committee**

Meeting Minutes – 10/25/2024 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

### **I. Attendees**

Voting Members:

- Council President Carrie Hartman
- District Councilmember: Vanice Williams
- Makenzie Kujawa Toledo City Council Aide (Proxy for District Councilmember Sam Melden)
- Director of Economic Development: Brandon Sehlhorst

Non-Voting Members:

- Commission of Parks and Youth Services: Karen Ranney Wolkins
- Commissioner of Division of Engineering and Construction Management: Christy Soncrant
- Toledo City Council Chief of Staff: Lucy Frank

### **II. Applications**

#### **a. Robinson Park Athletic Field Application**

Commissioner Ranney Wolkins provided an overview of the Robinson Park project, explaining that the City acquired the property several years ago through a series of property swaps with Toledo Public Schools. Similar to Smith Park, Robinson Park was transferred to the City in a condition that rendered it unsuitable for football or soccer activities. The current project focuses on removing outdated materials to make the park viable for recreational use. Additionally, \$150,000 in funding has been secured through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to construct an open-air shelter. The project timeline includes bidding in the spring, construction during the summer, and seeding in the fall of 2025.

Councilmember Williams highlighted the ongoing partnership with Toledo Public Schools on this and other projects, emphasizing the critical need for improved recreational facilities at Robinson Park.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Williams and seconded by Hartman to recommend approval of the Robinson Park Athletic Field District Improvement Program application to Toledo City Council authorizing the expenditure of an amount not to exceed 150,000 from District 4's available DIP balance.

**Vote:**

Yeas: Williams, Hartman and Sehlhorst

Nays: None  
Abstentions: None

**b. Elmhurst Park Playground Application**

Commissioner Ranney Wolkins provided an overview of a new playground project at Elmhurst Park, developed in partnership with Toledo Public Schools, which has committed \$65,000 to the effort. Ranney Wolkins emphasized the active involvement of students and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in the project's design, noting that the Parks team looks forward to collaborating with them on the final details. The PTA is also exploring additional ways to support and fundraise for further enhancements to the playground. The project aims to have the new playground installed before the start of the next school year.

Kujawa expressed her gratitude for the Parks Department's role in the project, highlighting the importance of the upgraded and expanded playground to accommodate the growing number of students who use it. She also emphasized how Councilmember is particularly excited about the playground's accessibility features, which will ensure that all students, including those with accessibility needs, can enjoy the space. This will be a place where everyone can play.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Kujawa and seconded by Sehlhorst to recommend approval of the Elmhurst Park Playground District Improvement Program application to Toledo City Council authorizing the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from District 5's available DIP balance.

**Vote:**

Yeas: Kujawa, Hartman and Sehlhorst  
Nays: None  
Abstentions: None

**c. District 5 Traffic Calming Application**

Commissioner Soncrant outlined the proposed safety improvement projects for Harvest, Secor, Berdan, and Sylvania in District 5. The initiative aims to address neighborhood safety concerns by installing various traffic calming measures, including slow-down, yield, and stop signs, as well as illuminated stop signs. As a pilot project, its success could lead to a broader implementation citywide.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Kujawa and seconded by Hartman to recommend approval of the District 5 Traffic Calming District Improvement Program application to Toledo City Council authorizing the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$109,380 from District 5's available DIP balance.

**Vote:**

Yeas: Kujawa, Hartman and Sehlhorst  
Nays: None

Abstentions: None