

(Read at this evening's Public Hearing)

December 5, 2018

To: Saint Paul City Council

Re: Public Hearing – Mayor Carter's proposed 2019 budget - Funding Reconstruction of Pedro Park

Council President Brendmoen, Council Members,

This afternoon, I emailed you an email thread which was between myself, and current and past elected officials, and city staff within the departments of Parks and Recreation and Planning and Economic Development. This email thread primarily pertained to the subjects of: Rebuilding Pedro Park and the City selling the Police Annex building. It was all of 50 pages.

Arguably, it is only after you voted to sell the Police Annex building to Ackerberg Development on October 24 of this year, that the boundaries of Pedro Park, perhaps permanently, have now been defined.

I say 'perhaps', being I understand there is a pending court case between 'Friends of Pedro Park' and the City on this matter - which will be heard on December 20.

Regarding the matter of Mayor Carter desiring to fund the re-construction of Pedro Park, in its current size, for a grand total of nearly \$3.5 million public dollars - this is an excessive amount:

1. given the park is less than a half-acre in size and
2. the 'Final' design as it's called by city staff, is mediocre in most respects.

Above all else however is this, any assertion, by any elected official or city staff person, that Due Diligence seeking community input on the 'Final' Pedro Park design we now see today has indeed occurred - is not true. Behind the scenes collusion created the 'Final' Pedro Park design and little more.

Over the coming days, I encourage you to *objectively* look at these 50 pages.

I hope afterwards, that you will agree that you owe the Citizens of Saint Paul an amount of Honesty and Integrity that has been missing. And any assertion that it's now too late to pause and to think Deeper right now, is also not true.

Next week, please Condition the Pedro Park funding request on a promise from the Directors of Parks and Recreation and Planning and Economic Development that the 'Pedro Park Community Input Process' will be re-started, posthaste.

Perhaps in a manner which I have constructively suggested within the final pages of these 50 pages. Perhaps you can think of something even better?

Regardless, please just do the right thing for the people you were elected to serve, while there is still time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Hosko

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