

*****ATTACHMENTS*****

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R. O. No. 338- 15 - 16. By CITY CLERK. April 18, 2016.

Submitting a communication from Sheboygan Park Project in Partnership with the Sheboygan Jaycees proposing a universally designed playground to be located at Deland Park.

*Bd. of Marina,
Parks & Forestry*

City Clerk

APR 13 '16 AM 11:50

Sheboygan Park Project in Partnership with the Sheboygan Jaycees

P.O. Box 561, Sheboygan, WI, 53081, 920-395-6278, ryanandangieshaw@yahoo.com

April 5, 2016

City Of Sheboygan
Common Council
828 Center Ave
Sheboygan, WI, 53081

Dear Sheboygan Common Council Members:

Sheboygan County is a diverse and growing community. It is one that is constantly changing and adapting to meet the needs of the citizens. The Sheboygan Park Project in partnership with the Sheboygan Jaycees, would like to propose a universally designed playground at maximum space of 145 x 215 feet. A playground that would allow every child the opportunity to play alongside their peers. One that would allow every person, of any age, the ability to safely navigate the play structure and surrounding areas. Promoting outdoor physical activity for individuals, families and friends.

In 2008 we proposed this project to common council. In November of 2008, Common Council **unanimously** approved the Sheboygan Park Project to build the universally designed playground on Deland Park, along with an accessible restroom addition to the Richardson Shelter. The economy was not in our favor at that time and was in downward spiral. Many members of our community were losing their jobs and charities were focused on providing the basic needs, for very good reason. For unforeseen circumstances we needed to put the project on hold for several years. The economy has become better and charities are donating to projects once again. We have since moved our non profit status in partnership with the Sheboygan Jaycees, which has a long standing history in our community. The Sheboygan Park Project was started by Ryan and Angie Shaw, the inspiration came from their formerly conjoined twins, Mateo and McHale. Their eyes were opened to a great need in our community and in their desire to give back to a community that strongly supported their family, they came to the conclusion they needed to raise the funds and build a universally designed playground for our community.

Several of our surrounding communities have built similar playgrounds. They are playgrounds that families will make a day trip to, in order for grandma and grandpa or a family member with special needs, to come along. In several cases, it is to allow all of their children to play with other family and friends. Families are willing to make a 30 minute drive to a playground in order to allow every child in their circle of family and friends the opportunity to play. Allowing each child the opportunity to alongside their peers, to learn through manipulation of play items throughout the playground, problem solve and use their imaginations to take them to far away lands. We intend to build a playground that will not only serve our community but also be a tourist attraction. We will be building a playground that will draw interest of families that are looking for a lakeside vacation at Blue Harbor or surrounding hotels. More importantly, we will be building a playground that each and every one of our schools can use for the end of the year picnic. We would eliminate the children that are left behind at the current school picnics sitting on the sidelines, wishing they could experience the freedom to move around a play structure with their friends. We will provide a safe environment that will allow each school to safely visit providing a memorable experience for everyone. We will be setting ourselves apart and exceeding the minimum accessibility and safety standards. The Sheboygan Park Project will be working alongside the city and it's officials, to ensure we don't take away the festival space. The Sheboygan Park Project promises to only enhances what the city of Sheboygan a has to offer on its lakefront.

The playground will be universally designed by Landscape structures. In every aspect, the playground will go above and beyond minimum ADA requirements and safety standards. We have done extensive research on the needs in our community. Some examples on how we have accomplished meeting our local needs are by consulting with various specialists ranging from physical therapist, occupational therapist, vision specialist, autism specialist, teachers and special education teachers to ensure we have designed the play structure to meet the needs of the children residing in our community. Most importantly, when the project was originally started we had gone into the Sheboygan Area Schools and asked the children what they wanted in the playground. We asked what they thought would be fun and exciting. We received an outpouring of pictures and ideas from the children. All of which we took into consideration when the play structure was originally designed.

The last census data from 2013 shows Sheboygan, Co having a population of 112, 738. Of that population, the total disabled population was 16, 934, **NOT** including children under 5. Considering all the children we have in our local birth to 3 program, we know that there are children under the age of 5 that are not accounted for in this total.

Currently, in the 2 operating years, The Sheboygan Park Project has raised roughly \$65,000 of the \$500,000 goal. In partnership with the Sheboygan Jaycees, respected members of our community and a substantial anonymous challenge donation that will be made to the park project in the near future, we strongly feel we will be able to continue this project through completion in the next 2 years.

We are asking for your support on this project and would be happy to meet with anyone who may want to know more information. Our goal is to enrich our community and the people who live here. We would be honored to have your support. Please do not hesitate to contact the Sheboygan Park Project with any questions or concerns. We hope to have common council's full support again and to bring something truly special to Sheboygan which will incorporate Sheboygan's unique history.

Kindest Regards,

Handwritten signatures of Angela and Ryan Shaw. The first signature is in cursive and appears to be 'Angela M. Shaw'. The second signature is also in cursive and appears to be 'Ryan Shaw'.

The Sheboygan Park project in Partnership with the Sheboygan Jaycees
Chairpersons, Angie and Ryan Shaw