

Committee on Parks and Culture on 2024-03-12 9:00 AM - HYBRID MEETING

This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:

<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Time: 03-12-24 09:00

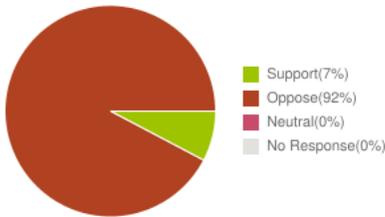
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Committee on Parks and Culture on 2024-03-12 9:00 AM - HYBRID MEETING This meeting will be held in Room 203-R, and will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx	03-12-24 09:00	29	13	1	12	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Committee on Parks and Culture on 2024-03-12 9:00 AM - HYBRID MEETING

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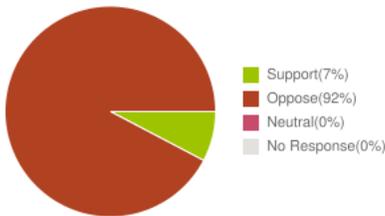
03-12-24 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
4 24-313 From the Executive Director of Parks providing a Jackson Park Drive Project Update (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)	3	0	3	0
5 24-350 A resolution authorizing and directing the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to proceed with developing constructions plans for a compromise design referred to as "Alternative C" for Capital Project WP071401 (Kinnickinnic River Parkway-Jackson Park Drive) and present the design with estimated construction costs to the board prior to submitting the department's 2025 capital project requests	10	1	9	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

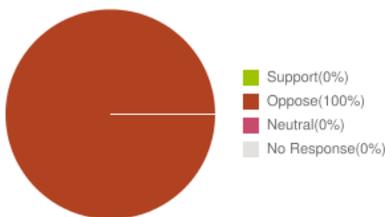
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 4 24-313 From the Executive Director of Parks providing a Jackson Park Drive Project Update (INFORMATIONAL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)

Overall Sentiment



Nancy Morrison

Location:

Submitted At: 8:08pm 03-11-24

Option D to repave JPD is the most logical option as voted by JPD residents each time we were given the opportunity to vote. The amount of money needed to make an extremely short bike/walking path is a waste of taxpayer money. The neighbors on JPD are happy with the street as is, we like our neighborhood as is and want

it to stay is. Please repave JPD and relieve the stress this project has caused the residents of this neighborhood.

Thank you for your time.

Mike and Nancy Morrison

Tracy Bernson

Location:

Submitted At: 6:56pm 03-11-24

I oppose any option other than paving Jackson Park Drive in its entirety and keeping the road as it is. I think the fact that it naturally winds along the Kinnickinnic river adds a unique and beautiful aspect to the neighborhood.

I hope that the voices of those who live on Jackson Park Drive and the immediate area will truly be heard and considered when making the final decisions.

Thank you for your time.

Kathy Glancey

Location:

Submitted At: 10:54pm 03-10-24

After three "public input" meetings and opportunities to post comments, neighbors are overwhelmingly opposed to converting any portion of JPD to a trail. Option D is the clear preference by an overwhelming majority of neighbors - every single time. Repave the parkway the way it is, plain and simple. Over and over neighbors have voted, spoken out, posted, etc. If any part of Jackson Park Drive is replaced with a trail, it would be clear that Milwaukee County Parks does not care what the majority of neighbors want.

To spend millions of dollars the County doesn't have on removing the parkway, landscaping and putting in a trail, is fiscally irresponsible. Tax-funded maintenance for the parkway was budgeted years ago and never implemented. Maintenance has been deferred long enough. Residents deserve the road to be repaved. Anyone can see that 35% of the curbs do not need replacing. They are not cracked or crumbling. Estimates are inflated and have not been transparent. Repaving the road will last more than 10 years, if done right. Remember, maintenance for the road has been neglected for many, many years.

No good reasons for the proposed change have been offered except that the project "meets our goals" of County Parks to eliminate hard spaces. Save the money to spend on other programs and simply repave the road.

In addition to the gross waste of tax-payer funding, there are many consequences to replacing the parkway with a trail, as many other neighbors have already mentioned, with no solutions offered:

1. Safety - Crime occurs where there is opportunity. A dark and secluded trail behind homes could lead to assaults, robberies and home break-ins. Even the sheriff encourages people not to walk alone on Milwaukee County trails and the government warns women not to walk/run alone after the tragedy in Georgia of the brutal murder of a young college student. See links to several articles where there have been attacks. Homeless people and tents have already been found along the parkway and could increase with less visibility. Coyotes will continue to breed and run wild along the parkway in greater numbers with little human intervention and traffic.
2. Access - Many neighbors will lose access to the front of their homes and require address changes. Fire and police will no longer be able to drive on the parkway for more immediate response to emergencies. This is not acceptable. A narrowed roadway will be more dangerous and eliminate parking for guests.
3. Yard Waste - Will pile up on neighboring roadways like Andover and Jerelyn leaving little room for cars and pedestrians, which is dangerous.
4. Beauty - Neighbors don't want ugly, reflective No Through Street signs and concrete pylons where there used to be a beautiful meandering parkway. Some kind of ugly barriers would be required to stop traffic.

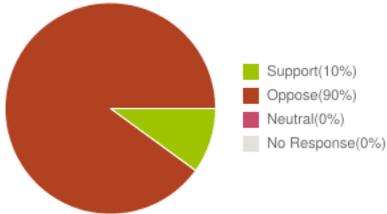
I think it's sad and disappointing how this project has turned neighbors against each other. There's been name calling: disgruntled, afraid of change and NIMBYs. It's terrible what tension and stress this whole mess has caused. Repave the road.

The only way replacing the parkway with any amount of trail will go through is if the County doesn't care and

totally disregards the opinions of the neighbors who are directly impacted.

Agenda Item: eComments for 5 24-350 A resolution authorizing and directing the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to proceed with developing constructions plans for a compromise design referred to as "Alternative C" for Capital Project WP071401 (Kinnickinnic River Parkway-Jackson Park Drive) and present the design with estimated construction costs to the board prior to submitting the department's 2025 capital project requests

Overall Sentiment



Benjamin Neumann

Location:

Submitted At: 8:50am 03-12-24

The parks department's proposal to completely convert five blocks of roadway supports the health of our waterways by reducing storm water and road salt impacts. Roads are a significant drain on the parks department's capital budget, constituting half of the \$500k backlog.

Please allow the parks department to use their limited budget for people instead of pavement that doesn't even add any roadway connectivity.

Kevin Germino

Location:

Submitted At: 8:47am 03-12-24

Parks came up with a plan that meets the county's goals, maintains access for all properties, improves the park, and saves money, Overruling them to spend limited time coming up with a more expensive plan is not only a bad policy, it disheartens our staff and makes it harder to maintain good teams. Set a direction and let the staff follow it, don't overrule them when they do what you asked.

The alternatives provided meet everyone's needs.

Mitchell Auping

Location:

Submitted At: 8:47am 03-12-24

I regularly get emails about the county parks system attempting to reduce it's financial and environmental burden by removing asphalt. This seems like an easy opportunity to move money from taking care of a superfluous street and moving it towards improving the park going experience for all users.

Additionally I understand that there are concerns that conversion to a trail may depress property values. From my understanding and experience conversion to trail would have the opposite effect, making those nearby homes all the more appealing.

I personally have been interested in the possibility of tearing out my block's street in favor of a little park and bike path. I've even gone so far as to reach out to my neighbors about the idea. And the vast vast majority are in favor, their main concerns being the initial capital costs and the bureaucratic hurdles.

People want to live in and nearby nice places, a trail is a far nicer place than a street. Please do not let short

sighted concerns cost the county unnecessary money and an opportunity to make Milwaukee a better place to live

Cade Gerlach

Location:

Submitted At: 8:32am 03-12-24

I support proposal B. The parks system has over \$250 million in deferred maintenance for park roadways. Roadways should not be the business of our parks. As such, I support as much of the removal of the park roadway system as possible. Supposedly, so does the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. They voted before to create this policy for the parks to enforce. They should continue to support the parks, not go around them.

Sam Mattson

Location:

Submitted At: 8:32am 03-12-24

Our county parks needs to reduce the mileage of roads they are forced to maintain. If this stretch cannot be converted, the parks department will not meet its goals full stop. The entire stretch originally proposed needs to be converted to a trail to allow more users of the park to enjoy it safely. Ultimately this conversion would increase the property values surrounding it.

Mitchell Henke

Location:

Submitted At: 8:08am 03-12-24

It's fiscally irresponsible and wasteful to rebuild and maintain this much road space, this should be a multi-use trail.

Nancy Morrison

Location:

Submitted At: 8:13pm 03-11-24

Option D to repave JPD is the most logical option as voted by JPD residents each time we were given the opportunity to vote. The amount of money needed to make an extremely short bike/walking path is a waste of taxpayer money. The neighbors on JPD are happy with the street as is, we like our neighborhood as is and want it to stay as is. Please just repave JPD and relieve the stress this project has caused the residents of this neighborhood.

Thank you for your time.

Mike and Nancy Morrison

Jacki Scudder

Location:

Submitted At: 5:05pm 03-11-24

I support the compromise presented. The neighborhood residents have stated on many occasions over the past 18 months that they want Jackson Park Drive to remain a road, not a 10' wide path. While I am sad that the road will be removed between 51st and 53rd streets I understand that in compromise no one gets everything they want.

Kathy Glancey

Location:

Submitted At: 8:42am 03-11-24

I do not support the closure of Jackson Park Drive for a two block bike path as in Option C.

There are miles of paths three blocks to the east throughout Jackson Park. JPD is already used recreationally. Many people walk and bike on both sides of the roadway, which allows enough space to pass comfortably with dogs on leash. A 10' path would not allow a comfortable passing distance.

Only the pavement itself is in poor condition, mainly due to decades of deferred maintenance that was budgeted and should've been completed years ago.

Just repave the road please.

Brooke Frizzell

Location:

Submitted At: 3:32pm 03-08-24

I write to you as a Milwaukee County resident and County Parks enthusiast. I urge you to oppose the ordinance to adopt Option C for the Jackson Park reconstruction. County Parks currently spends 50 percent of its budget on road and parking lot maintenance, and as I know you are painfully aware, the department has massive amounts of deferred maintenance. Every dollar we spend on road and parking lot maintenance is a dollar that we cannot spend on park amenities and programming. County Parks staff has recommended Option B as the most fiscally and environmentally sustainable option, and there is no compelling reason to ignore their recommendation. Taxpayers across the county should not be forced to support the extra expense of Option C, both in initial construction and in long-term maintenance, for the convenience of a small number of homeowners.

As a resident of Washington Heights, my family regularly spends time in Washington Park. However, we often must limit our time in this park because the restrooms at the bandshell are only open during bandshell events. Due to staffing issues, visitors to this incredible park often find themselves with no choice but to use a disgusting portable toilet. (And that's if we're lucky - I noticed that the portable toilet near the playground on Olmstead Way was recently removed.) I have found myself racing on my bike with my child on the back, trying to find her a restroom before she wet her pants. We have had a similar experience in other parks.

Spending extra resources on road maintenance rather than ensuring that all county residents have access to basic park amenities like restrooms would be a poor allocation of county funds. The day will come - sooner rather than later, I hope - when Olmstead Way will need to be repaved because it is in poor condition. Although I often drive this road because it is a convenient alternative to city streets, I strongly support putting diverters in the middle of Olmstead Way to prevent drivers from using it as a cut-through alternative to city streets. I am willing to forgo my own personal convenience so that we can spend limited county resources on amenities that benefit all park users, including regularly open restrooms and upgraded facilities. It is not unreasonable for our neighbors in Jackson Park to forgo a slight convenience in the name of fiscal and environmental sustainability for the entire county. Prioritizing homeowner convenience over the needs of all county residents also clearly cuts against the county's equity goals.

Further, a longer trail segment is what County Parks has recommended after significant study and public outreach. This has not been a hasty or thoughtless process. While elected officials need not always adopt an agency's decision, they should provide a compelling reason for overriding the recommendations of dedicated, professional staff. No such compelling reason has been provided for Jackson Park Drive. Overriding evidence-based recommendations made by hard-working staff for arbitrary and capricious reasons or to cater to a few loud voices will no doubt erode staff morale and trust of the county board.

I urge you to seriously consider the recommendation of County Parks and to vote against the ordinance adopting Option C. To be both fiscally and environmentally responsible, the county needs to drastically reduce the footprint of its parking lots and roads in county parks. Jackson Park Drive presents an excellent opportunity to do just that.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.