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CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: March 20, 2017  
To: Jason Haas, Chair, Parks, Energy and Environment Committee  
From: John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC)  
Subject: **Clarke Square Pavilion Fund Transfer Request (INFORMATION)**

**ISSUE**

Informational report on the Clarke Square Pavilion Fund Transfer Request.

**BACKGROUND**

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture and the Director of the Department of Administrative Services requests an appropriation transfer of \$98,500 to recognize additional funding for improvements to the Clarke Square Park Pavilion. The sources of funding include a grant to Journey House from the Zilber Foundation and the Park Amenities Matching Fund.

The Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative (CSNI) along with Milwaukee County Parks, Journey House, and the Zilber Family Foundation, seek to rehabilitate the physical structure of the Clarke Square Park Pavilion in order to make it more appealing and activate it for use by the community.

In October 2014, an appropriation of \$96,237 surplus from the Clarke Square Playground project supplemented a \$50,000 grant from the Zilber Family Foundation to support the revitalization of Clarke Square Park as a safe and open space for children and families to gather. Journey House spent \$1,237 of the \$50,000 Zilber Grant on three alternative design layouts and preliminary cost estimates. The concepts were reviewed and voted on during a public open house in fall of 2014. In 2016, CNSI applied and received approval for a Park Amenities Matching Fund award of \$50,000.

Through the enhancement of this structure, the entire community in Clarke Square (a neighborhood of nearly 8,000 residents) will benefit from a more usable, attractive, and feature-laden pavilion structure. Multiple surrounding organizations and institutions, including the Milwaukee Public Schools, Prince of Peace Catholic School, Casa de Gracia (a faith congregation across the street at 23rd & Mineral), and Faith Builders

(which holds its Serve Your City Day in Clarke Square Park each year in August) currently use the structure and the park. Improved features of the building will attract more families, organizations, and institutions to Clarke Square Park. The "garage door" features and added natural light will make the pavilion open and inviting for gatherings.

Neighbors in Clarke Square with CSNI's support are planning weekly gatherings in Clarke Square Park. These gatherings could include music performers, food trucks, faith congregations, active/participatory project partners (e.g. Artists Working in Education, Discovery World, the Urban Ecology Center), nonprofit Quality of Life Plan implementing partners (e.g. Journey House, Safe & Sound, others) and other vendors, artists and talented neighbors to share a safe, active space together each week. The hope for these gatherings is that they will activate Clarke Square Park on a regular basis in order to reinforce the social connections, creative spirit, and community bond present in Clarke Square.

**RECOMMENDATION**

No action requested. Informational item unless further action required.

Prepared by: Jill Organ, Chief of Planning and Development

**Approved by:**

  
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John Dargle, Jr., CPRP, Director

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