



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 14, 2018
TO: City Council and Staff
FROM: John Moran, Public Works Chairman
RE: Green Infrastructure Grant for the Library Lot

Since tonight's agenda is very full and this item comes near the end, I want to provide each of you with my thoughts on this topic and some supporting materials to help facilitate a more productive conversation.

I want to emphasize that this is for discussion only tonight. No final decisions need to be made.

This grant opportunity was brought to my attention a few months ago by a very engaged resident. I requested a sit down with MWRD to learn more and from that meeting was hopeful that Park Ridge might be a desirable partner for them. Our staff handled the application process and we were recently informed that our project has been approved. Here are my thoughts on the topic:

1. As a community that has recently signed on to support the Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2) and has recently announced the formation of a Sustainability Task Force, this project is the perfect chance to demonstrate our commitment to being better stewards of our environment.
2. This project will also help us address the stormwater management challenges that our city has been wrestling with for decades. While it will not solve all of our issues, the 200,000 gallons of water that will be absorbed and detained during a major storm event is not insignificant. That's the same as installing 4,000 rain barrels in town. If we plan to move forward with a SWU and want to encourage all stakeholders to make efforts to detain/divert their stormwater runoff, this is the city's chance to lead by example. The cost share with MWRD is an added bonus to the taxpayers.
3. The library parking lot might be in "acceptable" condition, but it is not in good condition by any means. If any of us lived on a street that was in this type shape, we would be asking why it wasn't on the resurface list. Pictures are attached.
4. The cost comparison to a resurface is not an apple to apple look at the pricing. As parking lots age, the subbase material also deteriorates. Replacing the subbase and surface layer is essentially what will happen with this project. Everything will be new. The Park District recently completed a parking lot project that involved replacement of the subbase. Their project was for 25,000 sqft and the low bid listed the breakdown at \$200,000. This was VERY low compared to the other bids and a true cost is difficult to ascertain because they included 3 projects on one bid event. Even at this low number, the library parking lot would cost nearly \$500,000 to replace completely with grey infrastructure. It's my opinion that this is a more comparable comparison.

