

# FPSE Infrastructure Committee

## 01/08/2025

Committee members: Julie Birkenmaier, Dan Doelling, Nathan Raymond, Tyler Wildermuth, Alderperson Michael Browning, Allen Levin

Park Central Development: Gabe Lepak

Guest: Nathan Dimberger, STL architect, and Eric Eiler with RMHC

### Chouteau Park Structure

Dan D. introduces Nathan Dimberger, prior work here:

<https://stlouishomesmag.com/article/453> , as well as the interior and garden at Earthbound Beer, the Nebula co-working lobby in Cherokee, and the new/unfinished Sump Coffee space in North City.

- a document was shared among the committee with references to the above
- Has supported multiple projects in STL and Cherokee St.
- Nathan provided his experience with the neighborhood and similar projects, including preliminary discussions for Love Bank Park
- Has proposed pro-bono work initially and then compensation afterwards upon project execution. Proposal included by Nathan for architectural services totals \$15,250.

Action Item: Ald. Browning has put out a request to Parks to verify funding, but this is yet to be confirmed. Michael to continue to reach out.

Question from Julie B.: Are there any other parks that we're aware of that have approached this sort of city-private funding structure?

- The committee briefly discussed Love Bank Park in Cherokee and it's private-only funding model via a CID.
- The outstanding question is whether there are issues with mixing public or private donations, or whether there are regulations that we should be

considering.

Chouteau Park has pedestrian lighting near the roads and might be used for future electrical needs

## **How would this project look?**

The route forward seems to be an approach that uses Nathan's design work while creating and executing a fundraising plan.

- Nathan D. expressed that design development can support partnerships and improve enthusiasm as we're fundraising
- Ald. Browning to continue to see Public-Private partnership with Kim from Parks department
- One precedent would be the collaboration of the City SC soccer team with the local parks
- Gabe L. mentioned that the St Louis Hills neighborhood did something similar in 2024 with playground improvements in Francis Park

Ald. Browning expressed that we should consider whether we need a lead for this project to drive the effort forward and run the project.

- The committee resolved questions with Nathan and Nathan disconnected.

The committee discussed next steps and potential challenges that will come, such as RFPs, selection process, funding model, etc. to be asked by Ald. Browning in a future meeting with Parks.

Action Item: Dan to share Nathan's prior work and documentation to Eric Eiler

Action Item: Allen L. is reaching out to John Lindell for additional architectural guidance

## **Community Sidewalks and ADA Ramps**

Ald. Browning sent the committee recommendations to the Board of Public Service

- For non-Chouteau intersections, BPS is beginning to form a plan
- A potential traffic study is in discussions for Chouteau given the width of the street and the potential to narrow the street.

The committee will table the crosswalks and ADA discussion until BPS efforts progress

The committee will rejoin on February 5th