

Council Agenda Report

Date: October 25, 2021

Prepared by: Pat Escher, A.I.C.P., Division Manager

SUBJECT: Grant Application by Eastern Shore Land Conservancy for Cannery Park

Recommendation: That Council;

- A. Approve staff's request to have Council show support for ESLC efforts to help raise money for Cannery Park with their grant application.

Discussion: ESCL is preparing a grant application to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: People, Parks, and Power: A National Initiative for Green Space, Health Equity, and Racial Justice. ESLC has been our partner on this project from the very beginning and in their continuing efforts are applying for this grant which has the following purpose statement:

"The People, Parks, and Power initiative comes at a critical moment. Imbalances in political and economic power and a legacy of racial discrimination in the conservation movement have excluded groups led by people of color from full participation in park and green space work or have tokenized their involvement. The P3 initiative is grounded in the premise that urban parks are essential community infrastructure that should serve every neighborhood in a fair, just, and safe manner, without displacing longtime residents or community-serving businesses. P3 will support community-based organizations and base-building groups working in urban, low-income communities of color across the United States to increase park equity through local policy and systems change. The geographic focus of the P3 initiative is urban areas—with a particular interest in small and midsized cities (under 500,000 population)."

Fiscal Impact: NA

Approved by: David Deutsch, Acting City Manager



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Andrew Bradshaw
Mayor

October 25, 2021

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
50 College Road East
Princeton, NJ 08540-6614

RE: People, Parks, and Power: A National Initiative for Green Space, Health Equity, and Racial Justice

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Cambridge, Maryland and their partners have been working on the creation of this park since 2014. Through these efforts, the City acquired the property and has professionally designed park construction drawings and is shovel ready. This Park will provide a much-needed recreational space for a very underserve population in the heart of Cambridge. This site was a previously blighted property, used for industrial purposes and a haven for undesirable activities. With the creation of the park, it will truly be transformative for the city and the region. The City strongly supports our partner Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's efforts, to continue to move this vital project forward.

Respectfully,

Andrew Bradshaw
Mayor