

From: [Bill Dixon](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Vanessa Nordyke](#)
Subject: Testimony Regarding Agenda Item 3.2a. 25-383 Fisher Road Park Development Grant Application
Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025 1:02:02 PM

My name is Bill Dixon, and I live at 608 Salem Heights Ave. S. in Ward 7. I write to urge that the Council take a prudent approach to applying for a state grant to develop Fisher Road Park. Specifically, the Council should get an assurance of funds for on-going operation and maintenance before approving the application.

As the Council knows, operation and maintenance of most city parks is currently being paid for by the 2025 local option levy. But, as a staff report for your recent session on funding council priorities noted, "there is concern of a shortfall in the Local Option Levy Fund similar to that in the General Fund" due to rising costs and property tax limits. And there is no guarantee that the levy will be renewed when it expires in 2030.

So, the financial outlook for operating and maintaining existing parks is already cloudy, without adding new parks to the mix.

There is no doubt that Fisher Road Park will significantly enhance the quality of life for those who live in its service area – residents who are primarily young and limited in their recreation options. But putting in their midst a park that couldn't be operated or maintained because of lack of funds would hardly represent a meaningful improvement on their condition.

Better to begin by ensuring that the city can provide the money to keep the park going as a meaningful contributor to the life of its community.

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Bill Dixon, 608 Salem Heights Ave. S., Salem 97302