

TO: Michael C. Van Milligen, City Manager
FROM: Marie L. Ware, Leisure Services Manager
SUBJECT: Recommendation from Five Flags Civic Center Commission Regarding Delay of Referendum Vote
DATE: April 1, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to forward a recommendation from the Five Flags Civic Center Commission regarding the delay of the referendum vote currently set for September 8, 2020.

DISCUSSION

Civic Center Commission:

The Civic Commission met on April 1, 2020 and formulated a recommendation for the City Council. Their recommendation is attached to this agenda item. The meeting was held as a virtual meeting. As a part of the meeting announcement it was advertised that individuals could give input via a Leisure Services phone number, Facebook page or email or a direct link to the citizen WebQA system.

Input:

At the writing of this memo this was the input received.

Nick Schrup, chair of the Yes for Five Flags, noted the committee of Yes for Five Flags had not taken a formal position on the issue. He shared on behalf of the committee it was reasonable to seriously consider rescheduling the vote alternative vote dates based upon the facts as they relate to the issues of today.

A phone call from a couple that did not want to leave their names that felt that the \$74 million could be spent elsewhere and Five Flags become a parking garage.

A letter from the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce was received by City Council members prior and is attached to this agenda item.

Any further input received would be provided to the City Council prior to their meeting.

Cost:

I spoke with Bill Krueger of Conventions, Sports and Leisure International to discuss if there was a delay to the proposed Five Flags Civic Center project, what that would mean for the pricing of the project. Mr. Krueger shared that in his career he has been involved with the aftermath of several events that might assist in a general answer. He was consulting with communities and organizations when 9/11 as well as Hurricane Katrina happened as two major examples.

If one acts, any one or more of these conditions can affect pricing such as the global, national and regional conditions, labor pool availability of the various contractors, plus equipment and supply needs, volatile construction pricing and production costs, construction materials availability, supply chain and even business stability of contractors. He shared one might think the pricing coming out would be lower and it could be for some elements of the project but might be higher for others.

Given all the uncertainty and unknown factors, he felt that any new work to update construction costs for the Five Flags project would be best served to be delayed for 2-3 months to allow for settling of construction labor and supply chain markets.

ACTION REQUESTED

This memorandum is for informational purposes only.

cc: HR Cook, General Manager
Crenna Brumwell, City Attorney
Jenny Larson, Budget and Finance Director