

AGENDA

DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION City Council Chambers VIA ZOOM

July 09, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

NOTE: The City of Des Moines is currently operating under a Proclamation of Emergency issued on March 5, 2020 and Governor Inslee's Stay-at-Home order issued March 23, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Accordingly, this meeting will be held virtually using Zoom.

Public Comment continues to be encouraged and will be accepted in the following manner:

- (1) In writing, either by email to the City Clerk's Office at <https://www.desmoineswa.gov/FormCenter/City-Forms-3/Council-Meeting-Comments-49> or by mail; Attn: City Clerk Office, 21630 11th Avenue S., Des Moines WA 98198 no later than 4:00 p.m. day of the meeting. Only your name and the subject of your public comment will be read into the record at the Council meeting. The full written correspondence will be scanned and attached to the Council packet and uploaded to the website as part of the permanent record.
- (2) By participation via Zoom. If you wish to provide oral public comment please email the City Clerk's office at <https://www.desmoineswa.gov/FormCenter/City-Forms-3/Council-Meeting-Comments-49> no later than 4:00 p.m. day of the meeting to receive your Zoom log-in and personal identification number. Please note that Zoom attendees do not interact with one another; they join in listen-only mode until it is their turn to address the Council.

City Council meetings can also be viewed live on Comcast Channel 21 or live streamed on the City's website at www.desmoineswa.gov.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC VIA ZOOM/WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Please Note: Comments from the public must be limited to the items of business on the Study Session Agenda per Council Rule 10. Please sign in prior to the meeting and limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| | Item 1: | EMERGING ISSUES |
| | Item 2: | DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR UPDATES |
| Page 3 | Item 3: | CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE CITY OF DES MOINES PARTICIPATION IN START (SEA-TAC AIRPORT STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE)
<u>Motion</u> is to direct the City Manager to inform the Port of Seattle that the City will be rejoining the StART Committee effective immediately. |
| Page 9 | Item 4: | VAN GASKEN SOUND VIEW PARK DEVELOPMENT: DISPOSITION OF EXISTING RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE
<u>Motion</u> is to direct administration to remove the existing residential structure at the Van Gasken property in order to provide an enhanced public view, open green space and other public amenities for the park. |

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NEXT MEETING DATE

July 16, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

A G E N D A I T E M

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL City of Des Moines, WA

SUBJECT: Consideration of future City of Des Moines participation in StART (Sea-Tac Airport Stakeholder Roundtable)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Powerpoint presented to City Council at February 27th, 2020 meeting.

FOR AGENDA OF: March 12, 2020

DEPT. OF ORIGIN: Administration

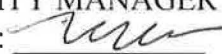
DATE SUBMITTED: March 6, 2020

CLEARANCES:

- ☐ Community Development _____
- ☐ Marina _____
- ☐ Parks, Recreation & Senior Services _____
- ☐ Public Works _____

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER: _____

- ☐ Legal _____
- ☐ Finance _____
- ☐ Courts _____
- ☐ Police _____

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER
FOR SUBMITTAL: 

Purpose and Recommendation:

The purpose of this agenda item is to review the StART process and for City Council to determine the City's relationship to StART moving forward.

Suggested Motion

MOTION: "I move to direct the City Manager to inform the Port of Seattle that the City will be rejoining the StART Committee effective immediately."

Background: Last summer, 2019 the City Council approved a motion temporarily suspending participation in the StART Committee as a result of the Port of Seattle Commission moving forward with design and expenditures associated with the Sustainable Airport Master Plan and that this Port action was conducted outside the parameters of the SAMP environmental review. The cities of Burien and Federal Way also temporarily suspended participation on the StART.

This item will review the current status of discussions with the other cities and the Airport in regards to potentially returning to the StART process.

Alternatives: City Council will consider the viability of returning to StART or of not returning at this time.

Financial Impact: No financial impact other than dedication of staff time to this process if City Council approves a motion to return to StART.

Recommendation/Conclusion: City Manager recommends moving forward to rejoin StART. It was appropriate to temporarily suspend participation last summer and it is appropriate at this time, based on a number of changes/improvements to the StART process, to move forward and rejoin StART.

UPDATE ON AVIATION ISSUES

- ▶ Temporary withdrawal from the Sea-Tac Aviation Round Table (StART).
- ▶ In July, 2019, the Port Commission passed design work for several projects associated with the Sustainable Airport Master Plan.
- ▶ Several Cities, including Burien, Des Moines and Federal Way felt this action undermined our Cities' trust in the StART process and therefore we temporarily suspended participation in the StART.
- ▶ In fact, actions taken by the Port, out of context with the SAMP, are part of a larger issue our City has formally commented on of the Port dividing up the SAMP and not identifying cumulative impacts.

PROCESS

- ▶ In September, 2019, Cities of Burien, Des Moines and Federal Way held a joint Aviation Advisory Committee meeting to review the Cities status with regards to StART.
- ▶ In November a follow up joint meeting was held and identified outstanding issues associated with the StART.
- ▶ In December a meeting was held at the Port with the Mayors, City Managers, several Port Commissioners, Port Executive Director Metruck and Aviation Director Lance Lyttle to discuss the Cities concerns.
- ▶ A follow up meeting was held in January, 2020, between City Managers and Aviation Director Lyttle to once again review any opportunities for progress coming from the StART.

SUMMARY

- ▶ This briefing tonight will serve as the foundation to a more extensive discussion I would like to hold with Council on March 12th, at which time City Council can review appropriate action relative to the possibility of rejoining the StART process.
- ▶ Other Cities, including Burien and Federal Way are holding similar briefings with their City Council's to determine their Cities appropriate action.

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A G E N D A I T E M

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL City of Des Moines, WA

SUBJECT: Van Gasken Sound View Park
Development: Disposition of existing residential structure

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Van Gasken conceptual design plan

FOR AGENDA OF: July 9, 2020

DEPT. OF ORIGIN: PRSS

DATE SUBMITTED: July 2, 2020

CLEARANCES:

☒ Community Development /s/ DL

☐ Marina N/A

☒ Parks, Recreation & Senior Services /s/ NN

☒ Public Works DRH-C

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER: DSB

☒ Legal /s/ TG

☒ Finance Bothland W

☐ Courts N/A

☐ Police N/A

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER
FOR SUBMITTAL: mm

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this item is to seek City Council direction on the disposition of the existing residential structure at Van Gasken Sound View Park. Removal of the residential structure is recommended due to the multiple challenges and costs discussed below related to retaining the residence.

Suggested Motion

Motion 1: "I move to direct administration to remove the existing residential structure at the Van Gasken property in order to provide an enhanced public view, open green space and other public amenities for the park".

Background

Van Gasken Park is located at 402 South 222nd St and is roughly .66 acres in size with two structures. The main house was built in 1889 and the detached roughly 1,200 sq. ft. garage was built around 1960. The City, through cooperation and partnership with Forterra, purchased the property in late 2017. Quick

action was crucial by Forterra to help purchase the property before it could turn into a development project. Forterra's President stated: "Forterra is committed to securing the keystone places that our Pacific Northwest needs for a sustainable future. That includes places of beauty and recreation, and there are few better in the region than the old Van Gasken estate. We are eager to work with Des Moines and its people to make this a flagship park for the City and the region." Forterra purchased the property for \$1.2 million, and the City was given a 3 year timeframe to pay them back. The City was awarded \$273,720 in RCO grant funds and \$594,000 in CFT grant funds for the acquisition, so the City has invested around \$300,000 in addition to design costs for development of the park. Funding was provided primarily through two grant awards, from King County Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) and the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Design work for the development of Van Gasken Sound View Park is currently underway. On July 11, 2019 the City Council approved removal of the garage structure and the City is currently working to secure permits for that removal.

This Park has the potential to provide unparalleled views of the Sound, expand an existing waterfront recreation area by providing a connection to our waterfront parks, and is a much anticipated addition to the community.

The City's grant agreement with RCO originally required a decision on the disposition of the house by June 1, 2020. Council consideration of this item was delayed due to necessary cultural resources work, coordination with the tribes, RCO, and the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, as well as the limitations on council meetings imposed by the Governor due to the pandemic.

The City has applied for an additional \$500,000 grant for park development from RCO. RCO has indicated a decision on the structure is required by mid-July, and that consideration of our new grant application will be negatively impacted without a decision, since this is an outstanding item on our existing grant agreement.

The City's consultant is currently completing a rendering of the park without the residential structure (Exhibit 2). This will be transmitted to the Council once complete, and is anticipated prior to the July 9th City Council meeting.

Discussion

The following considerations relate to the decision regarding the disposition of the house, as discussed below.

Historic Evaluation

A Historical Property Inventory/cultural resources evaluation for the property was completed by the City's consultants Environmental Science Associates and NW Vernacular who specifically evaluated the historical value of the house. The results of the study determined that the house is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or for designation as a King County Landmark. King County believes the house could be eligible for designation as a Des Moines community landmark due to its prominent location on the bluff. This designation recognizes the property but does not provide any enforceable protection. These findings are based on the extent of previous alterations and loss of integrity, as the design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association have been altered. The State Department of Historic Preservation, RCO, and King County Historic Preservation Office all concur with these findings.

RCO Grant

All structures on property acquired with RCO grants must be removed unless RCO determines the structure is allowed as essential to the operation and maintenance of the site. RCO would make a determination based on a request for approval of the use. There are few available options for use of the structure that might be approvable. Restrooms or necessary park-related storage are among uses that RCO might consider. Rental as a residence, museums, office space or an events venue that would allow for weddings or other gatherings are not approved uses. Should the City desire to retain the structure for non-park use, our existing grant award would be recalculated and significantly reduced by RCO based on a new appraisal completed at the City's expense.

Renovation, Maintenance, Removal Costs

The capital investment cost to rehabilitate the house at Van Gasken Park to retain it is high, depending upon the chosen use, in addition to the grant reduction if a non-approved use is desired. It is assumed that it would be difficult to complete a renovation for less than \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 based on past restoration projects in the City. The house does not meet current codes for public occupancy or accessibility, and vacant structures lead to issues with vandalism and safety. Operation and maintenance costs would add on-going expenses.

Demolition is significantly less expensive, expected to be between \$30,000 and \$50,000, and the grant award would not be reduced.

Park Design

Both the acquisition of the property, and the subsequent plans for development into a park are supported by and have consistent collaboration with local Native American Tribes. There is a potential for a further collaboration with the Snoqualmie Tribe to create artwork by one of the Tribes' carvers for the site.

Removal of the house, returning the site to its original pre-settlement condition would open up spectacular views of Puget Sound, adding to the City's green space and allowing the wider community increased access to this beautiful view property. The conceptual plan for the park development includes walking trails, gathering spaces, a viewing platform and interpretive signage.

A design element could be incorporated to create a viewing platform/deck on the residential foundation, with or without a roof, creating an amazing view gathering spot for the community. Interpretive signage could be developed to document the history of the place, both Native American and more recent history, including the occupancy by the Van Gasken family. If feasible we will repurpose materials from the house that may be incorporated into a commemorative design that would honor the history of the property while looking forward and serving the community in this unique place.

Summary

Weighing all the information above related to cost, grant requirements, ineligibility for historic landmark listing, loss of integrity of the structure, and the potential for increased park space, view and access, staff recommends that the house be demolished as the development of the park proceeds.

Alternatives

The Council could decide to retain the house and identify a desired use. Staff would request approval from RCO, and the grant amount would be reduced if an ineligible use.

Financial Impact

Retaining the residence: The existing residence is not usable in its current condition and would require significant capital investment to renovate. Renovation costs are not known at this time, as there is no permitted and identifiable use of the building. Maintenance and operations expenses would be ongoing.

Our existing RCO grant would be significantly reduced if an ineligible use is identified.

Demolition: Cost of demolition is anticipated to be in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Council approve the suggested motion.



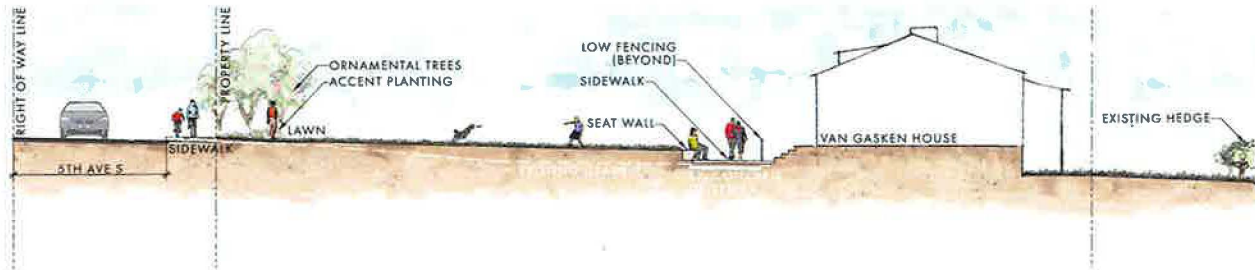
13

Van Gasken Park

Conceptual Plan



A SECTION A
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



B SECTION B
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



Van Gasken Park

Park Character



Van Gasken Park

Planting Character

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:45 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Julia
Last Name	Adams
Address1	13728 28th Ave NE
City	Seattle
State	WA
Zip	98125
Phone	425-478-0099
Email	Music.jadams@gmail.com
Subject	Save the Van Gasken house
Comment	I would like to see the Van Gasken house saved as a historical site and converted into a gallery, museum, studio, wedding venue, tea house, artist residence, or other, to serve as a benefit to the community. Thank you for considering saving this historic house.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Tyler
Last Name	Alexis
Address1	26228 14th Ave S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2532190799
Email	tylerea@me.com
Subject	Van Gasken House
Comment	I would like to voice my support of tearing down the Van Gasken house and repurposing the property into something else, such as a park.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Xfinity <andersoncentral@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:57 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gaskin House

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon council,

As you get ready to vote on what to do with the Van Gaskin House, I'd like to let you know that I support developing that property into something useful. It has sat idle for too long. Previous council have made the mistake of cutting off the marina area from the DT core and we'll never erase the challenges that has caused. Let's not make the same mistake again. I would support a vote to create either a public space or park OR developing the land into a facility that the city can generate revenue from. I've taken my kids to the park next door for years. That property is a great space with a great view. Let's put it to better use for the city.

Thank you
Rob Anderson
1723 S 234th St, Des Moines WA

Sent from my iPhone

Bonnie Wilkins

From: JOAN B <JOANB222@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:31 AM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken Prperty

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Mayor and Council,

I grew up in Des Moines and I cannot imagine the Van Gasken property without the house. I have a full range of emotions regarding the tearing down of such a beloved fixture in our community. The house should be utilized not torn down. I realize there is an expense to renovating, but I'm sure resources could be found to minimize that expense. This location, with the house has huge potential. I very strongly suggest that this vote be put off.

Joan Bailly

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Bob <bbo1958@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:16 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Hasken House

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Preserve the Van Hasken House. If you must move it down into the park below or another suitable location do so but do not tear it down.

Concerned Voter

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Cheryl Bourg <cheryl@homeportnw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 3:06 PM
To: _CityCouncil; Matt Pina; Traci Buxton; JC Harris; Anthony Martinelli; Matt Mahoney; Luisa Bangs; Jeremy Nutting
Subject: Request for a NO vote on tearing down the Van Gasken home

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

It's come to the attention of many, that you are voting to tear down the Van Gasken house. There is a lot of discussion online, and it is clear that many people did not know of the plans and are not supportive of it.

We urge you to vote NO or delay this vote. Please take a step back and reconsider this move; as this is a historical building. There must be a way to preserve it as something meaningful to the history or our town (perhaps a museum), and use the grounds to build a park around it. We understand that it is an old building, but it can be restored...like so many others have. It would add a lot of character to what we are trying to create here in Des Moines, as we connect the waterfront with the town. When we go to other ports...each has a historical element to the design of the town, captured with buildings such as this one. The location of the house is perfect for a museum, art gallery, etc...or maybe even a Pub.

Perhaps we missed something, but it does not seem like there has been any information provided to the public on this decision...or any request for feedback. This seems to stray from your attempt at including more of the resident's support for new development. You have provided a lot of information provided about the plans for the marina area, so we are wondering why this development isn't being handled in a similar fashion?

We are in favor of the city's purchase of this property, in order to preserve it; but ask that you delay this vote, and include the residents in this process of determining the best option for this property.

Again...we ask that you Vote NO or at least delay this vote! You have come so far in your attempts to create a more collaborative development process in our town. Moving forward with this vote would destroy the progress you've made with our residents.

Best Regards,
Cheryl Bourg



CHERYL BOURG
Real Estate Broker



P: 206-914-9460
E: cheryl@homeportnw.com
W: cherylbourg.com

f /cheryl.n.bourg
in /cherylbourg

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Jamie Brown <Jamie@mpindustrial.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 8:48 AM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Demolition of old house on marina bluff

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I strongly oppose keeping & restoring the house. We need to look towards the future, this is the cities opportunity to develop something next level, something that is purposeful and inviting. We can develop the park into something very cool, where you can birdwatch or stargaze, you can have cool events, eventually you could integrate the park with the marina below with steps or add a really cool deck that overhangs the cliff. Putting millions into a museum or something similar on a house that isn't even that historic, has been altered, and is a very poor move. We have one chance to do this correctly. Nostalgia is not the answer. This is a prime piece of property & its development can strongly alter the future of Des Moines. Please do a cost benefit and look to the future! This could be a game-changer! Look at the positive effects the removal of the old house at the marina had, it greatly improved the marina experience.

Thanks!

Jamie Brown
Logistics Manager
Jamie@MPIndustrial.com

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 7:19 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Elizabeth
Last Name	Burn
Address1	1204 S 258th ST
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2538391981
Email	elizabeth.burn@gmail.com
Subject	Van Gasken House
Comment	Please preserve the historic Van Gasken House. We MUST do everything possible to hold on to our history. PS I am Zoom challenged. Thank you.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Sandy
Last Name	Butler
Address1	P.O. Box 08534
City	Des Moines
State	Wa
Zip	98198
Phone	2064060261
Email	Mybutler@q.com
Subject	Old house over looking marina
Comment	My husband and I would love to see you tear the old house down that looks over the Marina and make it into a beautiful park that we all can enjoy the views and have our to go lunch or a dinner! The house is old and probably with asbestos and should be tore down and used as a park! We love to take to go orders there now and eat and the air is fresh and the views are spectacular!
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Tiffany Caprara <t.m.caprara@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:46 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken house
Attachments: 20200704_193919.jpg

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on the proposal to demolish the Van Gasken house. History matters to me. Please do not destroy one of the few remaining pieces of our city's earliest history without first exhausting all options to preserve it.

I have lived in 5 states in the US, and have visited most of the country. In my experience, the west coast in general lacks physical connections to history... it's sad how easily things are demolished and paved over. Make use of it, allow future generations to enjoy it and connect with the past.

Sincerely,
Tiffany
Des Moines, WA

*photo of an 1800s homestead in CO, where I took my kids to visit and discuss how life, and basic everyday things (like using the privy) were different.

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Sam
Last Name	Cheyne
Address1	4405 117th PI NE
City	Marysville
State	WA
Zip	98271
Phone	14253155788
Email	samcheyne46@gmail.com
Subject	The RED HOUSE
Comment	This building should be put on a nat'l archived list....
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 7:11 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Agartha
Last Name	Clark
Address1	23629 7th Ave S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2064657330
Email	aggieclark@comcast.net
Subject	Opposition to Van Gasken House Removal
Comment	Des Moines City Council -

This comment expresses opposition to the removal of the Van Gasken House, per Item 4 on the July 9, 2020, DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION.

First, While I certainly could have missed the public discussion regarding this issue, I could not find evidence of how the public was consulted regarding the removal of this historic home. As an asset owned by the public to be used for the benefit of the public, it seems that the public should be given ample opportunity to understand the reasoning behind taking the action, including what alternatives were considered, a cost-benefit analysis of each option, and then be given adequate

notice to respond. While some details are included in the packet, there has not been adequate time given to review, ask questions, and respond.

Second, as the property was purchased from the Van Gasken family, some of whom continue to live in and serve the community of Des Moines, it seems very inconsiderate that the family was not formally notified of the impending vote and possible action. Had the family been aware that the City of Des Moines intended to remove the structure, would the land have been sold outside the family? Could the city not take the time and make the effort to negotiate with the family over an appropriate way to honor the family, rather than surprising them in the eleventh hour with this proposal?

Third, the reading of the materials gives the impression that while creating a more open view is given as the primary reason for removing the structure, the monetary considerations were actually the driving force behind the decision. While the use of public funds should be an important consideration, it should be claimed as the reason if it is a driver in making the decision.

Finally, in the middle of a pandemic health crisis that brings with it subsequent financial strain for the city of Des Moines and its residents, is the removal of a structure at a park the pressing issue that should be considered at this time? Is the grant driving the sense of urgency to make a decision? Without the pressure from the timing required in the grant application, would this issue be considered at this time? I do not understand why the City Council is focusing on the aesthetics of a park when the community faces food and housing insecurity, small business closures, unprecedented unemployment levels, tax revenue shortfalls, and other serious issues that seem, at least to one city resident, to be more time-critical than creating an unobstructed view at a park.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Agartha (Aggie) Clark

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?

No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Valerie
Last Name	Constantino
Address1	1141 S. APPLE LANE
City	DES MOINES
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2065793555
Email	valerie.constantino@gmail.com
Subject	VanGasken House
Comment	Dear Council Members, I'm writing to express my concern that you would even consider razing the historic VanGasken house. Further, I'm saddened that you would consider it without even including the public on such plans. The VanGasken house is part of our history and ti raze it for "the view" is really short sighted and, frankly, selfish. Please, put egos and money issues aside and reconsider your position on this issue. This home is a treasure to be celebrated in our community....not unlike the restored buildings of the beach park. Sincerely, Valerie Constantino

Do you wish to be
contacted by the City
Clerk's Office with
instructions on how to
participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Rod
Last Name	Cook
Address1	21334 4th Ave S
City	Des moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	206-878-7910
Email	rwcook56@gmail.com
Subject	van gasken house
Comment	I'm writing to strongly oppose the tearing down/removal of the historic Van Gasken House. I grew up in Des Moines and have lived here most of my life. The thought that the city would destroy one of the oldest houses still standing, one that is in good condition and that really should be a historical landmark saddens and sickens me. I attended the open house there two and a half years ago. At that time we were told the city had purchased the house and property with the intention of preserving it. Either that was incorrect or something has changed. Please don't destroy this precious piece of history. Do the right thing. Preserve it. Rod Cook

Do you wish to be
contacted by the City
Clerk's Office with
instructions on how to
participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Darrellyn B <darrellyn77@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:59 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken house

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Des Moines City Council,

I understand the council will be voting whether to accept a grant to establish a continuation of the Marina Park which will demolish the Van Gasken house. It is my understanding that the house cannot be preserved as a historical house as it has been changed too much and the cost to upgrade would be high. I am in favor of expanding the park to this beautiful view point for the city.

As much as the history behind this house would be nice to preserve it is of no benefit to the city if all the public cannot get some use from it. The cost to keep would be too much. Time to move forward.

Darrellyn Black

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	James
Last Name	Davies
Address1	POB 95
City	Bellingham
State	WA
Zip	98227
Phone	3606715927
Email	GravityWell2112@gmail.com
Subject	Van Gasken House
Comment	Dear Council, My name is Davies. My grandparents, Roy & Hilda lived in Des Moines from the early 20th Century. The famous house that is no more, immediately north of the XXX Drive-in. Right there on main street. Famous for his beautiful gardens. All that I had to do to tell people of who he was and where he lived, was to mention the gardens. I was born in '62. Grew up on North Hill. Attended Mt Rainier High School.

I remember brick streets and Waterland parades, viewed from the yard of my grandparents. My father, John Davies, was on the Waterland board, an active member of the Jaycees.

I was in the high school band that opened the marina fishing pier.

That band was a product of a Van Gasken man, who taught music at MRHS for his life's work.

Dedicated to community.

I love my history.

I appreciate legacy, heritage.

Apparently you, the current board, do not?

It's a sad condition among gentrifiers, and developers.

We never miss things until they are gone.

And old is not truly valued until it's very old.

Prior to such time, it is disposable, in the way, a nuisance to be removed.

Presently I live in Bellingham.

Bellingham got the old charm that Des Moines once had.

And I don't miss traffic.

Bellingham has a waterfront park, "Boulevard Park" that has a re-purposed building right in the park.

It's now a coffeehouse with a patio overlooking the water.

It's a bit "Starbuck-ish", but very lovely. And very popular, year a round.

And a joy to sit there with a mocha and watch the boats go by, hearing the seagulls cry.

I love returning to Des Moines, and walking the marina, the Field House, and so on.

Preserve the Van Gasken House.

It matters.

Create a local historical Museum/Coffeehouse there.

I want to have a game of Scrabble at that house overlook, on the deck/patio, sipping a mocha in November, bundled up warm,

Vintage joy.

Memories.

Please honor the Van Gasken legacy, life and history of Des Moines.

Preserve the house in perpetuity.

James Davies

(360) 201-2019

POB 95 98227

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contacted by the City
Clerk's Office with
instructions on how to
participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: David Denino <daviddenino@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:41 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken Sound View Park development, and the disposition of the existing residential structure

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Des Moines City Council Members:

I am writing to urge each of you to vote against demolishing the Van Gasken House, in the Council meeting on July 9.

I understand the difficult budgetary implications of preserving the house vs. demolishing it. I would personally get much enjoyment from an open park there on the bluff. But tearing down the Van Gasken house would destroy the opportunity to create a one-of-a-kind cultural gem in Des Moines and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Imagine a Des Moines where the Van Gasken house has been restored and converted to a Des Moines Historical Museum, where residents and visitors could learn about the Native Americans that lived, hunted and fished here, the Van Gasken sawmill, "Daddy" Draper and the Children's Industrial Home of Des Moines, the mosquito fleet, the dance hall, the brick Seattle-Des Moines highway... in a building that stood to witness most of it, with a commanding view of where it all happened. Imagine this museum as part of a redeveloped marina, with visitors flowing to and through it, perhaps after they step off of the ferries that call on Des Moines. If you've done any traveling overseas you've probably visited areas that take that kind of pride in their history, and you probably have an idea of how much it could benefit civic pride and the local economy here.

I came to the west coast from Ohio, where there is much more history, and preserved historical sites like this can be found everywhere. It always strikes me how new everything is here, in comparison. There is so precious little real history left to preserve here in Des Moines. I know that there is a tremendous appetite among Des Moines residents for historical knowledge and perspective. Please do not eliminate the chance to take a bold, visionary step toward a proud and vibrant Des Moines, in favor of what is clearly the easier choice to make for the short term. Where there is a will, there is a way. Let's find a way to celebrate the history of Des Moines, not destroy it, and let's start by preserving the Van Gasken house.

Sincerely and with warmest regards,

David Denino
Des Moines, WA
(206) 438-3575

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Tad Doviak <taddoviak@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:47 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasket House

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Dear City Council,

The city of Des Moines has precious few things in the city that we can point to as OUR history. The Van Gasken House is something we still have that can be preserved. The amount of money that will possibly be lost is not worth losing this piece of our history permanently. It could become a permanent home for the Des Moines Museum for example. I urge you to either vote no or amend the agenda item to not require the demolition of the Van Gasket House.

Tad Doviak

Bonnie Wilkins

From: jillgibbs@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:25 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please do not tear down the Van Gasken house. Structures like this give Des Moines it's charm and it could be repurposed as many other things: Bed and Breakfast, Cafe, Museum and Gift Shop, Artist in Residence, etc. This is exactly the kind of thing that Des Moines needs to make it a more desirable and interesting place to visit, like some of the other charming small towns around the Sound.

thank you

Jill Gibbs-Doepel

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Bruce Glaman <bruceglaman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:51 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken Tear-down

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Realizing that, in this era of "dictate government" my and most of the voting publics' opinions matter little, it will, in this voter's opinion, add nothing to the Des Moines Beach Park by your tearing down of the Van Gasken House.

Progress does not always occur by demolishing the past. This house is a wonderful feature for the park and the community. Leave it be, please.

Bruce Glaman
22438 16th Avenue South
Des Moines

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:16 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Marlene
Last Name	Hancock
Address1	22651 12th Avenue South
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	206-24-3185
Email	Marlenehancock@yahoo.com
Subject	Van Gasken House
Comment	Please leave the home as it is. Look at the rest of the waterfront. Condos, condos, condos. A parking lot we have to pay to park. New park building that we have to pay to use. A tiny beach area with a park that has no tables, no play equipment, no barbecue areas all because someone wanted to have a spot for brides to take beautiful photos. There a beautiful paved trail from the area to 200th street. There is that. Why do we need another private facility on the hill. Move the Des Moines History Center there.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with	No

instructions on how to
participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:35 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Lawrence
Last Name	Holliday
Address1	20628 10th Ave So
City	Des Moines
State	Wa
Zip	98198
Phone	206.251.6652
Email	lawedwholl@hotmail.com
Subject	Van Gasken home future use
Comment	This beautiful home can and should be retained as a significant part of the Des Moines story. This beautiful example of an 1889 view home should be able to be enjoyed by all. A seismic stabilizing, and utilities retrofit to current code for public use can be done without changing the inside/outside appearance. This 1889 home could accommodate such as a coffee shop, with a view, and in addition it could house an extension of the current Des Moines Historical Museum. Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set. Proverbs 22:28
Do you wish to be contacted by the City	No

Clerk's Office with
instructions on how to
participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Barb
Last Name	Houston-Shimizu
Address1	20830, 8th Ave South
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2068987182
Email	barbshimizu@comcast.net
Subject	Vote no to disposition of the Van Gasken homestead
Comment	I ask the council to vote no to the disposition of the Van Gasken homestead and look forward to making personal comments during the council's zoom meeting.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Rick
Last Name	Johnson
Address1	28624 Redondo Beach Dr S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2532793310
Email	redondorick@comcast.net
Subject	"Van Gasken House"
Comment	Des Moines City Council July 9, 2020 "Van Gasken House"

Again, the city has the opportunity to save what little it has left of its history. The demolition of the Van Gasken home, at first so many ideas for its use. Now the city has turned a 180* in voting to tear it down. Why? Why wasn't the residents not notified in this decision? Who makes these decisions out of the blue? Has the citizens of Des Moines have no word in what happens to one of the last historical building's in the city?

I for one, feel we must save a part of our history for future generations. Once gone, it's gone forever.

Please take sometime in making your decision. Get input from the citizens of Des Moines on what they'd like to see of the property. It would make a good museum site for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Rick Johnson

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?

No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Rick
Last Name	Johnson
Address1	28624 Redondo Beach Dr S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2532793310
Email	redondorick@comcast.net
Subject	"Van Gasken House"
Comment	To read my comments in oral at the council meeting
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Gerrie kawabata <gerriea1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 8:02 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken House

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Dear City Council,

Four of us from the Mt. Rainier Class of 1976 are concerned about the action to tear down the Van Gasken house. I am currently a resident on Thunderbird Dr. and have lived in Des Moines since 1965. I believe we must preserve historical sites to give our city meaning and importance. We don't need another park situated just for the view-we already have views. I hope you'll reconsider the use of the building to benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Gerrie Kawabata

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Anida Khachatourian <akhachatourian@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:46 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: The van Gasken house

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I don't want the council to vote in favor of tearing down the Van Gasken house, please consider repairs and use it as Des Moines History museum we can have many visitors and can make some sort of publicity for our beautiful city . We have plenty of open views Much appreciate it A Des Moines WA resident

Ani khachatourian
Send from my iPad

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Sheri Knox <sherik2bk@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:33 AM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Gasken house

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My husband and I think this should be a NO VOTE!! Make this place part of our history AND make it profitable. At least delay the decision until more options can be reviewed.
Love the coffee shop/park/museum ideas. Big deck. People would Love to eat/lounge here and learn about DM. Make a deal with Ivar's. So many ideas.

Please don't just tear it down!

Thanks,
Sheri Knox
24918 19th Place S
Des Moines
206 550-1581

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Anne
Last Name	Kroeker
Address1	27915 10th Ave S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	4252607100
Email	annek@36524.com
Subject	Re-Joining the StART Committee and Air Quality Monitors
Comment	Public Comment
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:06 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Karin
Last Name	Krippaehne
Address1	21040 5th ave south
City	Des Moines
State	Wa
Zip	98198
Phone	2067143678
Email	Karinkripp@aol.com
Subject	View park House demolish
Comment	Although the house is historical, the park should be enjoyed by ALL. Not a cafe that only a small number of people can enjoy at a time. This is unreasonable to renovate. Keep some part of the facade as the historical center of the park and make a path for all to meander through.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Jim
Last Name	Langston
Address1	600 s 220th st
City	des moines
State	wa
Zip	98198
Phone	2065506818
Email	jamesdlangston@me.com
Subject	demolition of Van Gasken house
Comment	I am a 76 year Des Moines resident, current board member and past president of Des Moines Historic Society. The Van Gasken house is one of the last remaining physical treasures of Des Moines' early founders. The home not only represents Des Moines' pioneering settlers but also the lumber industry that was essential to the growth of our community. I understand the financial concerns about restoring and maintaining the structure but no amount of money can replace this physical reminder of our early history. The Van Gaskens had a long history of sharing their home with our community for gatherings and meetings for organizations such as the Rebecca and Odd Fellow annual picnics. I've shared these views with Bill Rudberg whose family was integral in the early commercial development of our town. He is unable to respond

electronically but asked me to let you know he is in full agreement with this viewpoint. Do NOT tear down this part of our history, it needs to be maintained for future generations. Tear it down, VOTE NO.

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?

Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: LEA Anderson <layneeanderson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:49 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken house

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Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on the proposal to demolish the Van Gasken house. History matters to me. Please do not destroy one of the few remaining pieces of our city's earliest history without first exhausting all options to preserve it.

It matters to your citizens.

Sincerely,
Layne Anderson
Des Moines, WA

Sent from my iPhone

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Jane Leonard <jpleonard206@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 9:54 AM
To: _CityCouncil
Cc: Mark Leonard
Subject: Van Gasken House

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Dear Des Moines Council,

Please save from destruction the Van Gasken House as it sits at the entry to Des Marina. The property has a direct link to the history of Des Moines. The Van Gasken family were instrumental to the early economy of Des Moines. Mr. Mark Van Gasken was a much-loved band teacher at Mt. Rainier HS during my years as a student there.

Please reconsider the demolition of this landmark building - this one piece of history this community needs to remember and cherish.

Sincerely, Jane Leonard
23302 17th Place South
Des Moines WA 98198

Sent from my iPhone

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Brenda <gtpony07@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 12:12 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: VAN GASKEN HOUSE

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DO NOT VOTE TO DESTROY THE VAN GASKEN HOUSE. This is an integral 3 of our history. Destruction of history can NEVER be taken back. Do not rush into this. Many of us who were very involved in Des Moines city government and parks n rec know for a fact that there are other ways to handle this and I have never seen a grant in all my years of grant writing requiring the destruction of historical structures. This is a knee jerk reaction and needs more scrutiny.
Brenda Limric

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Steven
Last Name	Luksan
Address1	165 Boston St, Apt 6
City	SEATTLE
State	WA
Zip	98109
Phone	2532059458
Email	stevenluksan@gmail.com
Subject	Save the Van Gasken House - an important link to Des Moines' historic roots and an opportunity to creatively move into the future
Comment	The Van Gasken House is one of the last remaining (and best preserved) links to our history. The history of the house (and the lumber mill that the family also owned) is the history of the city. The city bills the waterfront as being "Historic" and saving this structure is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the city to create a living link to the past. It was my great-great-great-grandparents who built this home, and I think it's remarkable that, 5 generations later, descendants of Jane Fleming and her daughter Emma Van Gasken are still living and working in Des Moines.

I've read many suggestions from community members that point toward ways that this structure can be repurposed while saving it as a landmark for future generations. (Examples: Turning it into a museum, an artist-in-residence program or gallery, a tea shop or cafe, a wedding venue, or keeping the "skeleton" of the structure and turning it into picnic shelter or "gazebo" that could be rented out for family gatherings, picnics, weddings, funerals, etc.) I urge the city's leadership to think creatively and save this house.

Thank you for considering all the options that exist for saving this structure.

Sincerely,

Steven Luksan

Artistic Director of the Saltwater Music Series (hosted by Des Moines United Methodist Church) & Employee of the Des Moines Area Food Bank

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?

No

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: rita Martin <ritajanemartin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:07 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken

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Hello Des Moines City Council Members

First of all I'd like to say thank you all for your countless hours you put into our community to make it better if not great. As a long time resident of Des Moines (40+ years) I'm writing to you today to ask for your consideration in NOT tearing down the Van Gasken house. Let's leave some history while we still can! I was just looking through a published book "One hundred years of the Waterland Community - A history of Des Moines, Washington Authored by Kennedy and co authored by Grechen Schmidt. It's so sad to look at this book and say we have zero to nothing left of this great community that was started long before you and I were born. The Van Gasken house is yet another piece of history that may leave us. I understand the wanting to put in a new park with an overlook etc. but at the cost of losing our history. I encourage you all to vote NO at the removal of this piece of history. Please let's NOT be the generation to say "yup the City Council along with residents" torn away our history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rita Martin
253-653-5860

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Barbara McMichael <bkmonger@nwlinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:50 AM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken House

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Hello!

I am a 21-year resident of Des Moines, but I've lived in the nearby area long enough to remember before Des Moines had a marina.

I understand that on this evening's agenda you will be considering demolition of the Van Gasken House. I've read through the paperwork associated with the issue and at first I hesitated even to write, as it seems that the structure is doomed by significant restoration costs on one hand, and lack of interest by state and county historical preservationists on the other.

I regret that I wasn't aware of this issue sooner, as my job with SoCoCulture entails providing cultural connections and promotion throughout South King County - and here I was, unaware of what was happening in my own hometown until just a few days ago! Still, I wanted to make you aware of a resource that I did not see mentioned in the rationale for tearing the house down, and that might give you an opportunity to reconsider the possibilities for retaining the house.

First let me say that for me, as well as for many other locals, the Van Gasken House has been an iconic and enduring landmark for Des Moines, representing a modest architecture and scale that earlier city councils and city planners allowed to be overwhelmed elsewhere along Des Moines' waterfront by a wall of condominiums. The Van Gasken house is humble, but it is romantic, too - hearkening back to a time when Des Moines' waterfront was a beach, and reminding us of an earlier history of mosquito fleets and clam diggers and robust salmon runs.

While demolishing the Van Gasken house might be the easiest thing to do, that doesn't necessarily make it the right thing to do. The house, if properly restored, could offer a cultural gathering place - home to a revolving artist residency program perhaps, and/or a branch office/cultural center for environmental groups such as Trout Unlimited, Forterra, or the Muckleshoot/Duwamish tribes that once had free access to these beaches, and I think still have some treaty rights associated with the tideflats that remain here.

If you were to explore that latter case, there may well be some funding available through tribal coffers to help realize this vision. And for any scenario, I want to be sure that you're aware of [4Culture's Building for Equity](#) program that is open RIGHT NOW and that is offering grants of up to \$25,000 that could go a significant way toward funding the repair/remodel of the space so that it would be suitable for cultural programming in a sustainable, long-term manner. This 4Culture fund prioritizes organizations located in, and providing services to, historically underserved communities within King County - and Des Moines is certainly one of those communities. You would have to move with alacrity to apply for this grant, but it is certainly within the window of possibility.

I encourage this 2020 iteration of the City Council to have the vision to preserve a structure which, even though it doesn't have the blessing of the so-called preservation professionals, still does hold a strong place in the hearts of Des Moines residents and in the history of our town. It would be regrettable if you voted to tear the house down without first exploring all of the options.

And please, feel free to use me as a resource whenever you have cultural questions. If I don't know the answers immediately, I will try to find someone who does.

Sincerely,

Barbara McMichael
sococulture.org
22810 Thunderbird Drive
Des Moines, WA 98198
206-878-6912

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:45 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Gary
Last Name	McNeil
Address1	20713 3rd Ave S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	206-592-2000
Email	gmcnsoccer@comcast.net
Subject	Van Gasken property
Comment	Please hold off making a decision on the Van Gasken property. The historical significance of the house and property is worth the time to consider all the options. Just because one of the funding sources you received requires you to demolish the house, that doesn't mean there aren't other funding sources to restore or convert the house to other uses.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Sandra Mock <SandraMock@johnlscott.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:08 AM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken house

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Dear City Council,

Please consider NOT tearing down this historic home and instead let's put it to good use! A museum, a great wedding spot, an Airbnb rental, all should be discussed but tear it down? Nah! What's the point?

Sandra Mock
206-818-1042
Sent from my iPhone

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Salim
Last Name	Mohamed
Address1	333 s 177th pl
City	Burien
State	Wa
Zip	98146
Phone	2065010063
Email	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Subject	The house above the marina beii
Comment	I wish to speak of my opinion on the house above the marina
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Sharon Morehouse <sharon.povertybay@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:45 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: StART

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NO!!☐♀ Do not rejoin POS StART, whatever it is they have planned it is definitely not in the best interest of the citizens that live anywhere nearby the Sea Tac airport!!!!!!

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Darren Nerland <dnerland@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:55 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: NO on the proposal to demolish the Van Gasken house

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Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on the proposal to demolish the Van Gasken house. History matters to me. Please do not destroy one of the few remaining pieces of our city's earliest history without first exhausting all options to preserve it.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:26 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Nancy
Last Name	Olsen
Address1	22211 cliff ave sourh
City	Des moines
State	Wa
Zip	98198
Phone	805-708-1402
Email	Starcat1@gmail.com
Subject	House
Comment	Please don't tear it down. Get the word out to the community. Use the money to restore it and turn it into a revenue maker.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Lloyd Michael
Last Name	Price
Address1	22315 6th Ave S Unit A406
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2068780519
Email	Imp98198@centurylink.net
Subject	Van Gasken Red House
Comment	Why destroy what little there is of Des Moines' history? Suggest update property landscape, and/or make the structure a museum?
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Alena Rogers <arogers5@antioch.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:06 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: VanG property

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Hello CMs,

Curious about the status of the reported indigenous objects(?) that are in the property of the former Van Gasken home near Overlook II.

I understand there are plans to potentially demolish the property; I'm wanting to know more about how local tribes are being included in the process, so they can determine how to proceed and retrieve the items if desired?

Thank you,
Alena Rogers

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Erika Rusch <carrot_cake67@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:06 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken House

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear City Council,

I am writing to you to ask you to vote NO on the proposal to demolish the Van Gasken house. Please do not destroy one of the few remaining pieces of our city's earliest history without first exhausting all options to preserve it.

Sincerely,
Erika Rusch

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:28 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Shaw
Last Name	Sander
Address1	3723 E Spokane St
City	Tacoma
State	WA
Zip	98404
Phone	2065957891
Email	sander98198@gmail.com
Subject	Historic Van Gasken House
Comment	I am deeply concerned about the planned demolition of the most historic building in Des Moines, the Van Gasken House. As reported in the B-Town Blog in 2017, "the City signed an agreement with Forterra to purchase the historic property located above the Des Moines Marina, with the intention of expanding the city's parks and open spaces AS WELL AS PRESERVING IT FOR PERMANENT CONSERVATION." To decide it is somehow blocking the view or taking up precious space is to go against all historic accounting and the wishes of the people. This property needs Washington Historic Landmark designation and not a wrecking ball. At the very least, please delay your "findings" while us concerned citizens scramble to nominate it as a precious piece of Des Moines rich history worth preserving. Shame on all of you for thinking otherwise.

Do you wish to be
contacted by the City
Clerk's Office with
instructions on how to
participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Joleen Schwetz <musicbox_2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 5:16 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van gasken House

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Vote NO

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: John Scully <jscullyjr@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:27 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Tearing down the house

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I'm in support of building a part with the old red house is now. I've been reading and with the renovations it doesn't seem to be of historical value. It's too far from the water and too small to use for events. I'm not seeing any value but a new part does make sense. My question would be has anyone tried to see if anyone wants to move it to another location?

Sent from my iPhone

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Barbara Shimizu <barbshimizu@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:38 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Cc: Barb Shimizu
Subject: Vote NO to disposing of the Van Gasken homestead

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Dear Mayor Pina and Members of the Des Moines City Council--

It is with great disappointment that I have only recently learned that the Council will be voting on a motion to dispose of the historic Van Gasken homestead located at Sound View Park above the Marina. I am deeply disappointed for this vote to be taking place, particularly in the midst of the COVID crisis, when we are unable to meet in person to discuss this and our time and attention is turned toward other important matters of life and death.

I see that the stated purpose of the demolition is to provide "enhanced public view, open green space and other public amenities." However, I believe we are blessed in Des Moines with many large spaces of stunning views. The footprint of this house does not take away from our view, but is an iconic landmark of the city.

As a close friend of the Van Gasken family, I have spent many July 4 evenings on the homestead property and can personally attest to the large amount of open space currently available on the property. We easily had dozens of people seated just in the side yard next to the front entrance. That does not even count large open spaces to the south and to the north, with other buildings that could be removed to create more open space, if truly necessary. This does not even count the hillsides surrounding the property to the west and north.

The Van Gasken house is one of the few remaining buildings of the settlement period in town. It has tremendous historical significance, not only for European American settlers, but also for native tribes that lived here. I can imagine many creative uses of the home within the context of Sound View Park development. What efforts have been made to secure funding (such as historic landmark status) to restore or prepare this home for public use? Since the city was able to receive landmark funding for their Covenant Beach facilities, surely the home of the owner of the old Covenant Beach saw mill directly above that beach would qualify? I, for one, would love to see a museum or conservatory in place at the park, perhaps similar to the fantastic museum in the small town of Cashmere, WA, that I always stop to peruse when visiting that area.

I respectfully ask that council members vote no to this proposal. Let us get through the COVID period and then we can focus on how to save this home as part of a beautiful AND historic park.

Sincerely,

Barb Houston-Shimizu
20830 8th Ave S
Des Moines, WA 98198

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Kelleen Silveira <Taloan7@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:40 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken House

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To the Des Moines City Council,

I have seen a lot said on social media this week about the proposal to tear down the Van Gasken house, but I feel like a lot of the comments being made are from individuals who have not read the City Council Study Session Packet. The house has been altered to such an extent that it is not eligible for historic protections, most of the suggestions being made for the house are not approved uses, it would also be expensive to get the house up to code to be useable for anything. A public facility would also require permanent funding to operate and maintain. I have not heard of any legitimate proposals for how to fund this, but following this path could potentially lose us money that we already have for a park that would be an asset to the entire community. After reading the Study Session Packet I feel like the reasoning to remove the house is sound and the best use of public funds and space. I do not think we should sacrifice a planned for and funded park for vague ideas without any funding suggestions that the current studies have said are not realistic. I highly encourage the City Council follow the current plan.

Sincerely,
Kelleen Silveira

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Brian
Last Name	Snure
Address1	27425 8th Ave. S.
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	206-824-5630
Email	Brian@snurelaw.com
Subject	Van Gasken House
Comment	I have reviewed the council packet regarding the recommended demolition of the Van Gasken House. While there may be reasons to demolish the house, there are also good, and possibly better, reasons not to demolish the house, they are simply not reflected in the packet. It is my understanding that there has been no public process, discussion or outreach on this subject matter prior to this evening's meeting. That is inexcusable. We are talking about the history of our community and until you listen to the input of the community the Council shouldn't be making an irreversible decision. I understand that there are apparently deadlines that require a decision. I am guessing those deadlines existed six months ago so if that is the rationale for excluding the community from this decision, the rationale fails miserably. I

respectfully request that you take the time to involve the community before making this decision. Thank you.

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?

No

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 7:24 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Mark
Last Name	Sperling
Address1	PO Box 13134
City	Des Moines
State	Wa
Zip	98198
Phone	206-359-1706
Email	Pakelenui@gmail.com
Subject	Van Gasken House
Comment	Keep the house! Please do not vote to tear the house down. It would be a great addition to include in the park and would draw people to the park...if it were a museum, etc. Renovate it and preserve our history!
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Karen
Last Name	Staley
Address1	23840 7th Ave S, Apt A102
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198-7301
Phone	3138010077
Email	kstaley@comcast.net
Subject	Save the Van Gasken Property: July 9, 2020 City Council Agenda Item #4
Comment	July 7, 2020 Dear City of Des Moines Council Members, My husband and I moved to Des Moines from the Midwest in 2016 because of the City's proximity to the Puget Sound, as well as the revitalization potential that could be realized by blending the abundant natural resources with the City's cultural heritage. While we are still relatively new to this area, we bring with us a deep respect for the power of local history to draw a community together. I am compelled to write to you now as you will be discussing the future plans for the Van Gasken property at the City Council meeting on July 9, 2020. I have been following the public record of information pertaining to this property for the last several years. The City's success negotiating with Forterra to secure funding that would "protect the property from future [multi-family residential] development" was

a major accomplishment. (Source: King County Conservation Futures [CFT] 2019 Annual Collections Application for Funds, https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/stewardship/conservation-futures/applications/2018/cities/DesMoines_VanGaskenPropertyWaterfrontOS.pdf)

While I understand that the focus has been on preservation of the site and not necessarily the original Van Gasken home, I am requesting that the Council consider the following questions during your discussion about the disposition of the home:

1. The City of Des Moines funded a stewardship and preservation engagement with the following organizations: the Des Moines Historical Society, the Des Moines Landmarks Commission, the King County Historic Preservation Office, Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation and Tribes, the Friends of Des Moines Creek. Presumably this work was done, in part, with taxpayer funds.

What are the conclusions and outcomes of this intensive effort? At the very least, community members should be provided with an opportunity to understand and comment on the findings of this work. [1]

2. Have you made a serious attempt to tap into the experience, skills and energy of community members to collaborate with you in an effort to preserve the home?

I would hope that creative options to repurpose the Van Gasken home would be given careful consideration. If a purposeful renovation/reuse on the existing site is not financially feasible, perhaps the home could be relocated to another more suitable site. The CFT grant application mentions the opportunity to develop the property as an educational/interpretive center. This should, of course, encompass both the archaeological significance of the early use of the site by Native American tribes and the eventual exploration and settlement of the site by some of the City's first residents. Community members have suggested other potential uses for the home that aren't dependent upon maintaining it in situ, such as leasing it to an organization that could host an artist- or musician-in-residence or as an extension of our local history museum.

There are precious few structures remaining from Des Moines' early days. Demolition of such a visible and iconic landmark would be a tragedy and should only be considered after all other reasonable options have been exhausted. I urge you to think about the enduring impressions left on the community if you bulldoze history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Karen Staley

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No
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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:31 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Stefanie
Last Name	Staudacher
Address1	22213 6th Ave S
City	Des Moines
State	Wa
Zip	98198
Phone	4253810407
Email	s_staud@yahoo.com
Subject	Van Gasken House
Comment	To whom it may concern, I have lived just a block from this house for the past 6 years. Being from Bothell, WA it always reminded me of the historic homes they have at the Bothell Landing with everyone enjoys. I would love to see the city keep this home and make it a historical place for the City of Des Moines and hopefully bring it some tourism. Full of history would be preferred such as a museum. I think with great consideration the city could keep the home, make a park on the property, or even slide the home over to have both park and home. The city should focus on cleaning up the Des Moines creek trail and keeping the homeless and drug use out of there. Please save the city. Stop demolishing city history.

Do you wish to be
contacted by the City
Clerk's Office with
instructions on how to
participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

Yes

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Morgan Stuller <morganleigh77@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 7:44 AM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: VanGasken House

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Good Morning! I just heard a tidbit about potentially tearing down the VanGasken house on the bluff, oh please don't! So many of our historical buildings and houses are already torn down, I would love to see this preserved. Maybe rent it out as an Air B and B and when it isn't scheduled for rent use it for tours for a small fee or donation like they do with the Lighthouse Cottage in Browns Point? Please please please preserve it, it's a beautiful sight as you pull onto the marina and I would be disappointed to see it go. Thanks for your time, Morgan Stuller, resident.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Ta Sukovaty <tata4now61@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:41 AM
To: _CityCouncil
Subject: Van Gasken house

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Please don't tear down or move the Van Gasken house! That contains such history! I'd love to rent it!
I am a school teacher and love history. It would also make a great welcome center I would happily run & live there.
Talawna C. Sukovaty
22211 6th Ave S
#201 Marina Estates
Des Moines, WA 98198
Cell Ph. (253) 347-6066
Email: tata4now61@aol.com

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:02 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Earnest
Last Name	Thompson
Address1	625 sw 189th st
City	Normandy Park
State	Wa
Zip	98166
Phone	206-355-1077
Email	Ecoe69@hotmail.com
Subject	Van Gasken House.
Comment	Cities spend a considerable amount of time trying to promote their city and draw tourist dollars. One of the items that draws me to D.M. Harbor is the appealing view of the Van Gasken House and the fact that it reminds me of an earlier and simpler time . It relieves anxiety and reminds us of our collective history. To tear it down would not only be an insult to our ancestors but would help destroy a valuable promotional asset that money just cannot buy. Preservation matters. Only an esthetically challenged individual with no sense of beauty and history would want to tear this down.Views? The Van Gasken House IS the view. In Normandy Park we have a Frank Lloyd Wright House . Why not develop a little tour of architecturally and esthetically significant buildings in our area together? Keep this house and

historical gem.
Earnest Thompson

Do you wish to be
contacted by the City
Clerk's Office with
instructions on how to
participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Patrice
Last Name	Thorell
Address1	22017 6th Ave S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2063665565
Email	Patricethorell@gmail.com
Subject	Van Gasken Park
Comment	Dear City Council of Des Moines, There is absolutely NO definitive reason to destroy the Van Gasken house at this time. Once it is gone, so are any future alternatives. As the former City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Director for 24 years, 1994- 2018, I wrote many parks development grants. There are always options for negotiation with our government granting agencies. We have fantastic state legislators that will even help us through difficult processes. One option that I personally discussed with the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (the parks grant agency that the City is probably referring to) was to transform the residence into a picnic pavilion, therefore keeping the iconic structure for park purposes. There are many examples of these types of preservation projects around the

Puget Sound that have been awarded RCO funding. The Beach Park Picnic Shelter and Restrooms is one of them! I have not been part of recent discussions because I retired 2 years ago, and I have not been privy to the City and State discussions. However, based on my past relationship with granting agencies and having raised millions of dollars of both park and historic preservation funds, I can honestly say that where there is a will there is a way!

As a constituent, it is my expectation that the City explore all options to save our history and the uniqueness that gives Des Moines a sense of place. Let's make sure that we retain a community where people want to live, visit and work.

I will strongly advocate that our citizens pay attention and make our voices known on this important issue coming before our City Council during these difficult times!

As our elected officials, you are OUR voice and have the power to cast the future Des Moines for us all.

Patrice Thorell

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?

Yes

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	CF
Last Name	Timeus
Address1	430 SW 206th St
City	Normandy Park
State	WA
Zip	98166
Phone	206-878-2210
Email	cftimeusjr@aol.com
Subject	Van Gasken structure disposition
Comment	I would like to make a brief oral comment regarding this motion.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Amy
Last Name	Tuipulotu
Address1	20228 8th Avenue s
City	Des Moines
State	Washington
Zip	98198
Phone	Field not completed.
Email	Valentine_a@msn.com
Subject	Demolition of HISTORIC Van Gasken house
Comment	I oppose the idea of demolishing the Van Gasken house, it is historic and should be preserved. It could be a music and art space,or something along those lines that benefits the young people of the community. The decision on what the site will be used for should be put to a vote of the citizens.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:51 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Last Name	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Address1	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	<i>Field not completed.</i>
State	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Zip	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Subject	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Comment	Please leave it as a historical site it adds to the City of Des Moines
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 7:55 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Kathy
Last Name	Van Gasken Luksan
Address1	36037 3rd Ave. S.
City	Federal Way
State	Washington
Zip	98003
Phone	(253)886-0869
Email	klluksan@msn.com
Subject	Van Gasken house
Comment	I am a member of the Van Gasken family. The Van Gasken House was built 131 years ago in 1889 for my great-great grandparents, and has been continuously occupied by many generations of my extended family until purchased by the city of Des Moines in 2017. I was relieved and very grateful to the city to hear its intention was to create open spaces and preserve the property, which to me indicated that the house would be preserved for its historical importance to the city of Des Moines. Now I am equally heart-broken to hear that the City Council is seriously considering to demolish this historical house and voting on it tonight. This came as a surprise, as I have not heard the results of any council studies or of any opportunities for the community to express their opinions about this other than tonight. I am urging you to slow down this

decision-making process by listening to your constituents' ideas and opinions. I have recently heard many wonderful ideas to use this house in ways that would entice visitors to the park, expand and increase use of the park, and preserve an irreplaceable piece of Des Moines history, such as a more visible Des Moines Museum, an artist-in-residence location, an event venue, a coffee/food venue. Tonight, please vote "NO" to demolish the house and continue to explore other ways to utilize this beautiful, historical house. Once history is destroyed, it can never be replaced!

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?

No

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Bonnie Wilkins

From: Bonnie Wilkins
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:59 PM
To: 'noreply@civicplus.com'; Taria Keane
Subject: RE: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

Hi Kris,

The City of Des Moines has received your email relative to the Van Gasken House. In addition, the City Clerk's Office has received your Council Meeting Comment through our online form submittal process where you have indicated that you would like to make public comment at our next available Council meeting. You do need to register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMTd-mhrT4tHdywm_ILt57TrWkg3T7tMSO

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Bonnie

Bonnie Wilkins, CMC | City Clerk-Communications Director
City of Des Moines | 21630 11th Avenue S, Suite A | Des Moines WA 98198
206.870.6519 | 206.870.6540 (fax)



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From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins <BWilkins@desmoineswa.gov>; Taria Keane <tkeane@desmoineswa.gov>
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

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Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Kris
Last Name	Van Gasken
Address1	22032 10th Ave S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	2066798742
Email	krisvangasken@gmail.com
Subject	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Comment	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	Yes

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Kris
Last Name	Van Gasken
Address1	22032 10th Ave S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	206.679.8742
Email	krisvangasken@gmail.com
Subject	Vote No For Removal Of Historic Van Gasken House
Comment	Dear City Council Members-- I am writing to ask you to vote NO on the proposal to demolish the historic Van Gasken house. To me history matters--it is the reason we are here. This house is a link to our past, to the earliest days of our city. We can celebrate this history with a grand park that has great views with this iconic house as the centerpiece. The house would make a wonderful museum, highlighting not only the early history of the city, but also the native american history of our area. As a 4th generation Des Moines resident, and a member of the Van Gasken family,I have spent a considerable amount of time in the marina area, and also on the property. I admire the view of the house every time I see it. I have been at clam chowder feeds where well over 100 people were seated in the yard with

tables and chairs, with plenty of room for a large croquet course, a badminton game, and plenty of other space for folks to mingle and kids to run around and play. I believe there is more than sufficient open space for a glorious park surrounding the house. Please do not take this part of our history away from us!

As your constituent, I am asking you to vote no on this proposal.

Thanks!

Kris Van Gasken
22032 10th Ave S

Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?

No

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Bette
Last Name	Van Gasken
Address1	6106 NATHAN WAY SE #D
City	AUBURN
State	WA
Zip	98092
Phone	253 833 2626
Email	bvanman2010@gmail.com
Subject	removal of Van Gasken historical building
Comment	I only "married into" the Van Gasken family years ago but now as a 94 year old I will tell you that it should be more than the council to decide the future of this site. My suggestion would be to use it as a "Historian in Residence" for the future. This method has been done in several other Green River Valley cities and through the publication of their books or booklets has increased interest and revenue for their cities. The Neely Mansion in Auburn would be a good example.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to	<i>Field not completed.</i>

participate in the City
Council Zoom meeting?

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Bonnie Wilkins

From: Jayme Wagner <jaerae90@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:42 PM
To: _CityCouncil
Cc: Bonnie Wilkins
Subject: Van Gasken House for public Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear City Council Members:

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on the proposal to demolish the Van Gasken house, at this time.

The History of Des Moines matters to me. I have spend 40 of my 44 years here.

Please do not destroy one of the last few remaining pieces of our city's earliest history without first exhausting all options to preserve it.

Have other grants been searched for that would help with preservation cost? I would hate to see a decision be made tonight, that can't be un-done. My request in simply to vote No for now, while more options are researched and I'm happy to volunteer my time in search of possible solutions.

Thank you.

Jayme Wagner
Woodmont neighborhood

Bonnie Wilkins

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Bonnie Wilkins; Taria Keane
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Council Meeting Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Council Meeting Comments

Your name and the subject of your comment will be read into the record at the next available City Council meeting.

First Name	Susan
Last Name	White
Address1	28742 Redondo Beach Dr S
City	Des Moines
State	WA
Zip	98198
Phone	253-670-6096
Email	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Subject	Van Gasken House
Comment	I hope the City Council reviews all options before voting to tear the Van Gasken house down. Historic Preservation as you know can do a lot for economic development in cities. The Beach Park was a prime example of that. I hope you give this a little more time and look at other options that could preserve the house that could be another destination/tourism point to visit in DM.
Do you wish to be contacted by the City Clerk's Office with instructions on how to participate in the City Council Zoom meeting?	No

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DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR UPDATES

July 9, 2020



CITY MANAGER

- City Manager declared Emergency Proclamation for COVID
- COVID response
- Open Emergency Operations Center/Chaired ongoing status meetings
- Finance/Budget
- Organizational structure
 - Creative functionality
- Preparation for City Council meetings (ZOOM)

CITY MANAGER, continued

- Airport meetings
- Assistance to locate SR3 Marina Mammal Rescue on the Marina floor
- Development of RFQ for Marina redevelopment
- Working with PSE to maximize energy efficiency design for Marina redevelopment buildings
- Passenger Ferry Service
- Marina waterside redevelopment
- Preparation for budget retreat

CITY MANAGER, continued

- Acquisition of 4th Port of Seattle grant for Marina redevelopment
- Legislative Discussions
 - Direction and strategy to City Legislative Advocate (Anthony Hemstad)
 - Resources for Redondo fishing pier
 - Congressman Adam Smith
 - Direct contact with Governor
 - Representative Orwall
 - State Senator Karen Keiser
- SCORE Admin Board
- Review of organization dynamics relative to COVID 19

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER



- COVID-19 Response and EOC
- Oversight and Coordination of SR 509 Expressway ILA
- Oversight and Coordination of the Sound Transit Federal Way Link Extension Project
- Human Resource Matters and Negotiations
- Preliminary 2021 Budget Preparations



CITY CLERK

- COVID
 - Council Meetings
- Support City/Staff
 - Zoom Meetings
 - Contracts and Agreements
- Public Records
 - 900 January-June 2020
 - 1,048 January-June 2019

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Full services available, revised to governor's safe start requirements
- Implementation of electronic plan review
- Flood hazard zone update/code clean up regulations complete
- Major development:
 - Theater
 - Point by Vintage
 - Wesley

COURT

- Reorganization of Court operations (continuing post-COVID-19)
- Virtual courtroom up and running (jury trials resume in August)
- Virtual Court Clerk's office
- Increased access to the court, reduced wait times for parties with business before the court
- Continuing to keep ahead of current state-wide and national trends

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



- Des Moines Joint Emergency Operation Center (EOC) will no longer be staffed. The Covid-19 EOC team will continue to monitor the pandemic remotely and is ready to reactivate the EOC if needed
- Emergency Management is working with all City Departments to develop a Safe Start/Safe Return to Work Plan
- Emergency Management distributed 16,000 face masks to the community including 6,000 to Highline Schools Coalition and 1,000 to the Des Moines Food Bank. All others were handed out 2 per person at the Activity Center over 4 days.

FINANCE

- COVID-19 crisis – Track additional expenditures spent to respond to crisis, evaluate impact to city revenues and work with staff to receive local, state and federal assistance
- Completed the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR), currently being audited by the Washington State Auditor
- FileLocal implementation – web portal for payment of business license and B&O tax returns
- Budget instructions sent to departments for development of the 2021 Budget
- Evaluate responses to Request for Proposal for Financial Management System and Implementation

LEGAL

- Transitioned to virtual prosecution of criminal cases
- Expanded access to Domestic Violence Victim Advocate and utilizing new technologies to provide services
- Continued support of all City departments, to include contract review, resolution and ordinance drafting and development, risk mitigation and assistance with legal aspects of COVID 19 response

MARINA

- Coronavirus
- 50th Anniversary of the Des Moines Marina
- Sr-3
- Boating Infrastructure Grant
- New addition to the Marina Team



PARKS, RECREATION & SENIOR SERVICES

- Adjustments due to pandemic: cancellations/refunds
- Virtual Camp KHAOS in progress
- Midway Park update on mini-pitch
- Senior Activity Center – Continuing to service our seniors
- Grant application for Van Gasken Development (RCO)

POLICE

- Redondo Square Station
- Emergency Operations Center at Station 67
- Providing Access to the Public
 - o Concealed Pistol License- Fingerprinting
 - o On-line alarm and pet licensing registration and payment- Payment Drop Box at front door
- Drone Program
- Parking Enforcement
- In-Car and Detective Interview Room Camera Systems

PUBLIC WORKS

- Continuing to work with National Marine Fisheries Services for our Bulkhead Project permit concurrence
- Substantial Completion of 216th Segment 3 – (11th Ave to 18th Ave)
- Near completion of 4 City Playground Project Improvements



Steven J Underwood
Playground



Wooton Park



Wooton Park Gazebo



Westwood Park



Kiddie/City Park

PUBLIC WORKS, Continued



Alley Undergrounding Project



Barnes Creek Trail Project



Des Moines Memorial Drive/S 200th Street
Traffic Signal Project



24th Avenue South/South 208th Street
Traffic Signal Project

Van Gasken Sound View Park

unobstructed view to the west



1



July 9, 2020 City Council Study Session

Dan Brewer, Chief Operations Officer

Susan Cezar, Chief Strategic Officer

Van Gasken Sound View Park Background

2

Property is .67 Acre

Owner inquired if the city was interested in the residential structure only (without the land) in approximately 2015

Property was then offered for sale in 2017 by the family trust

Offer from a developer was accepted by the trust, submitted to the City for a pre-application meeting - private multi-family development.

Original sale to developer fell through

City made offer for the property, with intention to seek grant funds



Van Gasken Sound View Park Background

3

Forterra purchased the property on behalf of the City in late 2017, preventing loss of the view site to development and furthering Forterra's goals of creating urban open space and public access.

City had three years to reimburse Forterra for the purchase.

Goals of City acquisition:

- Prevent imminent threat of loss to intense development of the site
- Create public gathering place
- Increase access to Puget Sound viewpoints for the broader Des Moines community
- Connect surrounding public open spaces (missing link)



Van Gasken Sound View Park Background

4

Since the acquisition, multiple discussions have occurred related to plans for the park and structures

Initial design concept rendering presented to the City Council
September 6, 2018

Covered shelter concept, house removed

This was also presented to the community at the Marina area redevelopment public input meeting Sept 19, 2019 at the Des Moines Yacht Club

Option for removal/view area at least two years





Van Gasken Sound View Park

Background

6

City was successful in obtaining two grants for the acquisition:

\$594,000 - King County Conservation Futures Grant (CFT) - funds received
\$273,720 - State Recreation Conservation Office Grant (RCO) - pending receipt
\$332,000 - City funds
TOTAL = \$1.2 M

Reality is that without these grants, the property would not have been able to be purchased by the City. Likely development into multifamily units, precluding public access and views if the property had remained in the private sector

RCO acquisition grant requires structures to be removed except in limited circumstances approved by RCO as essential to the operation of the site

Decision on the residential structure due to RCO in mid July (acquisition grant)

Structure Considerations – Historical Evaluation

➤ Garage

- City Council previously approved removal of the 1960's garage, the area will be incorporated into the site planning potential disabled parking spaces

➤ Residence

- Historical resource consultant evaluated the residence
- Determined not eligible for listing - either National or King County Landmark due to loss of integrity, multiple and significant previous alterations
- Agreement with these findings by RCO, King County, and State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)

Structure Considerations – RCO Grants

Secured acquisition grant of \$273,720:

- Structures required to be removed, with few exceptions
- Decision by mid-July (extended from June 1)
- If Council chooses to retain the structure, identify use and seek approval from RCO
- Very few uses are possible: restrooms, park storage for the site might be approvable
- Not approvable – meeting or office space, event/wedding venue, museum, residence
- If not an approved use, grant amount reduction

Structure Considerations – RCO Grants

New 2020 grant application (\$500,000) for park creation/public access/landscaping/viewpoints:

- This new grant application would be negatively impacted without a decision regarding the structure (either removal or approved use)
- Without this project, the site would remain closed to the public as unsuitable for public access in current condition
- Grant funds needed to complete the park



Structure Considerations - Costs

Costs of structure renovation:

- Building does not meet codes for public occupancy or ADA accessibility
- Would need extensive renovation, hazardous materials abatement, mechanical/plumbing systems, structural alterations/repairs
- Improving the structure to an acceptable use is expensive, based on past experience, up to \$1M
- On-going maintenance costs (older building)
- In addition to potential loss of grant funds

Removal significantly less expensive:

- 30K to 50K expected demolition
- Prudent use of public funds has never been more important – impact of pandemic on budget



Structure Considerations - Costs

11



Structure Considerations – Park Design

- Removal of house would open up an outstanding view area, increasing access to this spectacular view for the entire community
- Utilize foundation area for view platform with or without roof – could be utilized for gatherings, picnics etc.
- View platform would increase access, and usable area of the park
- Avoid vandalism and crime associated with vacant structures



Structure Considerations – Park Design

13

Existing:



Structure Considerations – Park Design

14

Conceptual:

**May include
modifying access
to 5th Avenue
for reduced
vehicle use and
increased
pedestrian use**



Structure Considerations – Park Design

15



Structure Considerations – Park Design

16

Ways to honor the past while also looking to the future to best serve the community

- Re-purpose materials as feasible
- Interpretive signage regarding the history of the area
- Close collaboration with tribes on the park design and protection of cultural resources
- Working with DAHP, RCO and tribes to design the project to avoid impacts and enhance, protect and interpret
- Return site to its original pre-settlement condition
- Possibility of incorporating cultural artwork

Recommendation

Weighing all the information related to costs, grant requirements, loss of integrity of the structure, ineligibility for historic landmark listing, and the potential for increased view, park space, usability and access, staff recommends removal of the residence as part of the public park design.

