

Resolution to Reappropriate Approved Funds for the Eloise Butler Improvement Project

November 2024

Whereas the Board of Commissioners approved funds for the Eloise Butler Improvement Project in 2020, 2021, and 2024, for Expansion of the Visitor Center and Front Entrance Project, more information is now available.

Whereas architectural plans were drawn for the Expansion of the Visitor Center in 2021 to provide staff more workspace and expand public educational space; the one bid came in over budget, partly to having to hand transport materials in and out of the Garden and required more excavation than expected.

Whereas the experience from the Covid pandemic taught the Garden staff that people were visiting the Garden to be outside for the fresh air and its calming and meditative atmosphere. The welcoming Kiosk at the Front Entrance was very successful in welcoming visitors and providing information.

Whereas in remodeling of the tool shed and the Visitor Center storage room was repurposed for staff workspace, it eliminated the need for new workspace construction.

Whereas the two utility sheds built in the summer of 2024, proved more excavation than expected happened with damage to surrounding trees, and a large mass of dirt was placed on the hillside. A small project became a much larger project.

Whereas a recent review of the Visitor Center project, recommended a 14-foot-wide temporary road to be built which would cause destruction of trees, plants and the soil. Also, it was determined that more excavation and the road would require a larger construction site for the Visitor Center with the destruction of a significant part of a historical 117-year-old botanic garden.

Whereas the Eloise Butler Improvement Project includes upgrades for the Front Entrance Area, funds should be focused on the development of safer

entrance access, an accessible bathroom, and a possible outdoor amphitheater for visitor programs and visitor picnic space.

Whereas the Eloise Bulter Improvement Project included both the Visitor Center and the Front Entrance Project. The Visitor Center addition is no longer needed for staff workspace and would be destructive while the Front Entrance Project would provide benefit for the public and preserve the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.

Signed _____

