



Dear Fellow Citizen:

We are writing to inform you of a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Sandusky that will be voted on during a special election on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. The amendment, submitted by the "Sanduskians for Sandusky" group, would require a public election for the approval of any "sale, lease or private development on existing or future park property." **As your duly elected City Commissioners, we are opposed to this amendment because it could have detrimental effects on our city's operations and progress.**

The City of Sandusky is committed to enhancing our city parks because we know parks are a critical part of a thriving city. We have made significant investments in over a dozen neighborhood parks in recent years, while also working to increase public access and connectivity along the waterfront with projects like the Sandusky Bay Pathway and the future Landing Park behind Sports Center.

The proposed amendment could prevent the City from continuing this progress because it could limit the City's ability to make improvements at its parks without first securing voter approval for each project, causing investors to look to other communities. If this amendment passes, residents could be required to vote on every use of every park facility each year. Voters could be required to approve the operation of public areas currently being used by Great Lakes Grinders, Dockside Café, little league ballfields and every resident who wishes to rent park space like Mylander Pavilion for private events. Each year, the City could incur an additional \$10,000 or more in costs to put these specific uses of parkland on the general election ballot. This year, the charter amendment change explained in this letter is costing the city more than \$44,000 because it requires Sandusky to hold a special election.

As for Battery Park, the City has leased that property to a private entity for over 50 years, with its current lease dating back to the 1980s. There have been many public plans over the years that called for upgrading the public waterfront access at Battery Park, while also adding mixed-use development such as apartments, condominiums, and retail, all of which will add new residents and revenues in support of public services. Before any development can occur at Battery Park, there will be many more public meetings and many public votes of the City Commission.

We know that our parks are important public assets that belong to the people of our city, and we believe this charter amendment would cause more harm than good. Anytime we invest in our parks, or make any changes to them, we always have a public process to hear from our residents. You are always welcome to let us know your thoughts and opinions on these issues.

Thank you for voting and participating in our democratic process.

Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission

Blake Harris

Mike Meinzer

Dennis E. Murray
Vice President of the City Commission

Steve Poggiali

Dave Waddington