



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Councilors

From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Rebecca Cross, ECDI Executive Director

Date: May 7, 2013

Re: Presentation – Freenotes Harmony Music Park Project

BACKGROUND:

The City has supported the effort by Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. (ECDI) to incorporate into our park system a musical component. This effort is being made to help expand our creative economy, which we are developing with Arts of the Albemarle, the Museum of the Albemarle and Port Discover.

The project will initially include three instruments with attached mallets and a colored/stamped concrete base. The 20' by 20' area includes space to expand another three instruments if desired in the future. The musical instruments can be a learning tool as well as a public art piece. The proposed location is on the west side of the Waterfront Park area, just north of the path to the dock. (Map included.) This location will not require fencing.

ANALYSIS:

This project was initially proposed for Mariners' Wharf Park. The change of location to Waterfront Park will allow for a better connection between the Museum and this Music Art project. School field trips can include this new musical component during their visit. There will be plenty of open space, which will be safe for children to play the instruments. This area has fewer events than Mariners' Wharf Park and will therefore not interfere with those events. Although far enough away from the boat docks not to disturb, it is still accessible to the boaters who travel with children and would enjoy this added activity for their family.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, support the location of the Freenotes Harmony Music Park Project in Waterfront Park as shown on the map provided.