

David Lineberry, Chair
CoMo 200 Task Force
January, 2021

Mr. John Glascock, City Manager
City of Columbia, Missouri

Good morning Mr. Glascock,

It is my pleasure to serve as chairman of the Mayor's CoMo 200 Task Force for Columbia's 2021 bicentennial. I was a late addition to the Task Force, volunteering to serve as a member focusing on history projects. Subsequently, unanticipated changes in leadership resulted in my being selected first as co-chair and then as chair of the Task Force.

Of the many-factored efforts of the Task Force, I am most concerned by the challenges presented in fund-raising the costs necessary for the Flat Branch Park expansion, a project previously approved by the City Council. While CoMo 200 colleagues with the CID have annual revenue from which to fund their commitment to the Gateway Plaza portion of the Park Master Plan, the rest of the Task Force is charged with raising as much as possible of the remaining costs of demolition and site preparation, creek reclamation, greenspace restoration, pedestrian bridge design, pedestrian bridge abutment structure, pedestrian bridge, and related additional landscaping, masonry, and sidewalk work.

I am honored to serve with my fellow Task Force members and I find them capable in their respective fields and volunteer efforts. I surely understand why the Mayor proposed them and why the Council confirmed them. Like me, those other Task Force members, prior to their joining the effort, may have underestimated the dimension of necessary fund-raising, and may not fully have understood its central role in the Task Force's activities. In short, while we have an excellent team for many of the projects and celebrations in planning and executing a citywide, yearlong bicentennial observation, our team is perhaps less well-suited for successfully raising multiple six-figure sums from the community. They are not broadly experienced in executing capital campaigns, and they are not deeply experienced in leading them. The additional fact that the Task Force and all other charitable groups, businesses, and individuals have been challenged by social restrictions and financial uncertainties attendant to the present pandemic has been and continues to be a significant complicating factor.

We have worked to maximize the fund-raising impact of the Task Force, and we have invited and all greatly benefited from the efforts of a volunteer Fund-raising Chair with decades of charitable fund-raising expertise, Chris Kelly. Chris and I are informed by the project needs identified by city staff, and we continue to work closely in pursuit of major donors, project donors, and in-kind and cost-recovery supports. We have also enlisted the willing aid of two former Mayors in the fund-raising work. Despite these ongoing and growing efforts, I have come to the reasonable conclusion that the Task Force needs help in this area of fund-raising; that for the benefits of a City Park at this time, a search must be made in Parks and Rec or somewhere to find whatever funding might be available now or soon to help defray the major parts of the Park Expansion project costs, exclusive of the Gateway Plaza.

It has been my pleasure to work with several city staff members on this project, and they have been universally helpful; thank you for running such a fine government. You and I have discussed the ideas in

this letter previously, but I thought it valuable to document these concerns as a part of our collaboration in addressing them.

I know we will continue to work together, but if I can be of further or different information in the meantime, please let me know.

Thank you,
David Lineberry
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