

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Lawrence community receives major gift from Assists Foundation for Rock Chalk Park

A joint release from the City of Lawrence, KU Endowment, Bliss Sports and the Assists Foundation

(Lawrence, Kan.) –Bill and Cindy Self's Assists Foundation today announced a major gift to the Lawrence community to promote physical activity and wellness. The Assists Foundation has agreed to participate in a number of features associated with the project. The Assists Foundation participation will reduce the city's out-of-pocket cost to the project by up to \$2 million. This generous gift is among the largest gifts to the Lawrence community in recent years.

The Assist Foundation release can be found here:

[http://www.lawrenceks.org/assets/documents/pdf/Assists Foundation RCP Release.pdf](http://www.lawrenceks.org/assets/documents/pdf/Assists_Foundation_RCP_Release.pdf)

Under the agreement between KU Athletics, the City of Lawrence, KU Endowment and Bliss Sports, the city's contribution to the Rock Chalk Park project, including the city's Recreation Center, shared infrastructure and related costs, was capped at \$25 million. In May, Gene Fritzel Construction submitted the low bid of \$10.5 million for the construction of the Recreation Center. The parties have been working on updating the infrastructure and total project cost estimates. The total project costs are now estimated at \$24.5 million. As a result of the donation from the Assists Foundation, representatives of the parties have agreed to recommend a reduction in the city's out-of-pocket cost from a maximum of \$25 million to a maximum of \$22.5 million. The city's actual costs for the project will be set forth as follows: \$10.5 million for the recreation center bid, \$925,000 for architect fees and \$784,000 for land acquisition, with a remaining maximum amount of \$10,290,950 for tennis courts, walking/running trails, recreation center site preparation, and other shared site infrastructure. Pursuant to the development agreement, these costs will all be based on actual expenses.

The City of Lawrence and the Assists Foundation are enthusiastic that this development can help move the project forward to completion.

"On behalf of the Lawrence community, I am very pleased we are moving forward with this valuable and important partnership with the University of Kansas," said Mayor Michael Dever. "For years to come, our entire community will greatly benefit from the recreational facilities and relationships created through this unique cooperative effort. The Lawrence community is especially grateful to Bill and Cindy Self and the Assists Foundation for helping to make this project a reality."

The City Commission is expected to provide direction on the project at its June 4 meeting, which will be held at 6:35 pm at City Hall.

-END-