



City of Winston-Salem City Council  
**Council Agenda Item Summary**

Title	Information Item Regarding Development of a DIY Skate Park in Downtown Winston-Salem
City Council Committee	General Government Committee
Meeting Date	June 8, 2026
Staff Lead (Presenters)	Jason Thiel, President, Downtown W-S Partnership Bryan Ledbetter, Skate WS Foundation Jerry Cooper, Skate WS Foundation
Department Head	William Royston, Recreation & Parks Director
City Manager/ACM	Ben Rowe, ACM

**Agenda Item Summary**

Recommended Council Action Suggested Action/ Motion Options	Information Item Provide direction to staff
Strategic Focus Area Strategic Plan Objective	Livable Community LC3: Ensuring the City is a Community of Choice for Quality of Life
Anticipated Fiscal Impact	No Estimate Available

**Summary of Information**

Earlier this year, City staff met with Jason Thiel and members of the Skate WS Foundation to discuss the potential development of a new downtown skate park that would be bounded by Seventh and Eighth Streets to the south and north and Spruce and Marshall Streets to the west and east. (Please see the map within the presentation for this request.) The skate park would be developed using the “DIY” model in which skateboard and BMX enthusiasts and advocates would construct the structures used to perform the various stunts and tricks enjoyed by those groups.

At the General Government Committee’s June meeting, Jason Thiel, along with Skate WS Foundation members, Jerry Cooper and Bryan Ledbetter, will present the skatepark concept and discuss a potential framework for a lease with the City. The lease would establish the City’s and the Skate WS Foundation’s respective duties and obligations for owning, operating, and maintaining the new skate park. Provisions would address use of the skate park; improvements to the land to create the skate park; fundraising to build, operate, and maintain the facility; and indemnification of the City against legal liability from accidents and injuries that occur at the skate park.

The Skate WS Foundation is seeking a long-term lease of the City land at a nominal annual rate.



Mr. Thiel and representatives from the Skate WS Foundation presented the concept for a downtown DIY skate park to the Recreation and Parks Commission at their regular meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Commission endorsed the proposal to develop the skate park at the requested location.

If Council Members support the development of the skate park, City staff will bring an action item for Council's consideration in August.

**Analysis of Fiscal Impact**

According to the proposal from Skate WS Foundation representatives, development of the skate park would not require City funds for construction, operation, and maintenance.

**Attachments**

- Presentation from Skate WS Foundation

Committee Action	GGC 6/8/2026
For: 3	Against: 1 Absent
Remarks: CM Hall Absent	
Motion to have staff move forward with item G-1	
Approved	