Landscaping Remodel

Outdoor Concepts was our first quote. It was presented in a rough draft at the last board meeting. It has been polished up some, and we now have a better idea of what they are quoting. That led us to shop around to make sure we were not overcharged. I reached out to Minnich’s who quoted landscaping and concrete. He does not do electrical or furniture (he gets it from Outdoor Concepts). I reached out to S&B Electric, which is Tom Baumgartner our usual electrician. Caleb from James S. Jackson also provided a quote for electrical and concrete. I also reached out to Brickley Construction, who is competitive on the concrete, but is not available until Summer 2023. Not every quote is directly comparable, but I tried to lay out each quote in a comparable table to get a clear picture. Thus, leading to an “ideal quote” that I have laid out in the last table, and what I will explain below.

I suggest that we start by partnering with S&B Electric to get the electrical power for the power posts. WCPL will cover the hand digging of the trenches around the building and to the power post locations. That is why this electrical quote is much cheaper compared to the others. That and Tom being our normal electrician.

Once the electrical work is complete, the site will be prepped for Minnich’s to come in and pour concrete. Minnich’s plan for concrete is a little more extensive than Outdoor Concepts as well. Minnich’s is planning to concrete in everything on the west side, which will give it a nicer look when it is all done. It will not have awkward mulch beds around the West exit door. This includes the concrete pads for benches, the ramps from exit doors and the extended pad by the front door for the bike rack.

Minnich’s will handle the landscaping. The landscaping will be the exact same plants that Outdoor Concepts planned. Scott Minnich mentioned that he gets his plants from Outdoor Concepts as well. The only difference will be that Scott plans to mulch the South side of the building, and the stone will be removed. This will ensure that the plants have a healthy first year of life. He is worried the stone will not provide enough nutrients for new plants. Also, this will alleviate the nuisance of having rocks all over the street on the south side, and some concerns that someday one could come through a window.

As for furniture, we reached out to LandscapeForms which is the same company we bought the power post from for the Ossian Project. They have special non-profit pricing if we purchase direct from them. Thus, saving a mark-up fee and a discount on top of that. We also looked into purchasing the benches from them. While the style is more appealing, the cost is much higher. Pulling from the Outdoor Concepts quote, the benches and hardware with them is $8450. While the more appealing style through LandscapeForms is over $20,000 even with the special pricing. I have laid out the difference between those in the last two tables.

Minnich’s is hoping to do this in the fall either before or after street fair. He does not like doing new landscaping installations in the spring or summer due to unpredictable weather (which we have seen both tons of rain and drought the last 3-4 months). I believe we can coordinate with S&B and get the trenches and conduit laid before street fair. If approved, I say we order furniture ASAP. The light posts are on a 10-12 week lead time, and I am sure the benches are also on a similar time frame. The installation of furniture can be done after concrete is poured.