

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2021

DATE OF MEETING: February 10, 2021
MEMBERS PRESENT: Laci Harrison, Dan Witkowski, Shari Smith, PJ MacPhaiden, Joelle Dickerson
OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Ford, Ellensburg Youth Rugby Club, Council Liaison Stacey Engel, Parks & Recreation Director Case

CALL TO ORDER – Commission Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

MEETING MINUTES - The meeting minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting were approved as written. ***All in favor.***

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal from Ellensburg Youth Rugby – Bob Ford, from the Ellensburg Youth Rugby Club, presented a proposal to convert Fairpoint Field, the baseball field at West Ellensburg Park, into a multi-use field by removing the baseball infield material and replacing it with grass. The project would also include reconfiguring the irrigation system and potentially adding bleacher seating. Staff indicated that it has been at least five years since Fairpoint Field was used for organized baseball games, teams are now electing to use the two newer baseball fields at Rotary Park, Staff also pointed out that one of the goals and priorities identified in the 2016 Park Comprehensive Plan update was maximizing existing park inventory to their highest use, which this proposal would do by allowing baseball to still be played, as well as soccer, rugby, lacrosse, and ultimate frisbee. The Ellensburg Youth Rugby program is a co-ed program with participants ranging from U-12 to high school age. Funding for the project would come from the club.

Commissioner Witkowski voiced concerns about the potential impact rugby games could have on parking in the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Ford stated that matches are restricted to Saturdays and that scheduling would take into account other activities scheduled at the park. Staff added that there would be available parking at Rotary Park since the Ellensburg Youth Baseball and Softball program is no longer scheduling Saturday games.

A motion was made and seconded to support the project and recommend that the Ellensburg City Council approve the project. ***All in favor.***

OLD BUSINESS

Scoring Form for the Naming of Downtown Park – The Commission reviewed the scoring form for the naming of the downtown park making one adjustment to the description of the 'Political Climate' category.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR MARCH 10, 2021 MEETING

Selection of downtown park name.

STAFF REPORT – 1. City staff is performing tree removal at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park per the Army Corp of Engineers requirements. 2. With the county moving to phase two some recreation opportunities have expanded including high school sports, an increase in the number of participants and programs allowed at the Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center, and local organizations, such as the Ellensburg Youth Baseball Softball Association being able to offer sports to your local youth. 3. Parks Department will be hiring their full allotment of 6 seasonal employees. In 2020 we were fortunate to hire two seasonal employees due to COVID. 4. Participation numbers at the Stan Bassett Youth Center continue to increase. 5. Projects slated for 2021 include; demolition of the Rotary Pavilion drive thru structure; installing field lights at the Rotary Park youth baseball/softball complex; reroofing the pool; chip sealing the Rotary Park parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.