

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2021

DATE OF MEETING: January 13, 2021
MEMBERS PRESENT: Laci Harrison, Dan Witkowski, Jack Frost, Shari Smith, PJ MacPhaiden, Joelle Dickerson
OTHERS PRESENT: Council Liaison Stacey Engel, Parks & 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 December 9, 2020 meeting were approved as written. ***All in favor.***

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Elections – Nominations were made for the positions of chair and vice chair. Laci Harrison was nominated as the chair, Dan Witkowski as vice chair. Vote was unanimous.

Homelessness in City Parks – Staff provided the Commission with information regarding an increase in homelessness at City park facilities, specifically the Rotary Pavilion property in downtown Ellensburg.

OLD BUSINESS

Scoring Criteria for the Naming of Downtown Park – The Commission finalized the process for the naming of the downtown park. After the nominations close on February 26th, all commission members will receive the nominations, which will include the names submitted in the current nomination process, as well as all of the names submitted in January & February of 2020. From that list, commission members will bring their top five names to the March 10th meeting and rank each name based on the following:

1. Name has a connection to Ellensburg/Kittitas County
2. Citizen Appeal - How well the name will be received in our community
3. Mindful of the current political climate
4. Legacy – how well will the name age, is it timeless
5. Reflects the diversity, inclusivity, and equity of our community

Each category will be assigned a maximum of five points.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2021 MEETING

Update on Reed Park Master Planning Process

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS / OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Dickerson asked about the removal of the bench swing from Lions Mt. View Park. Staff stated that the bench had broke and could no longer be repaired and reinstalled due to the age of the bench. Staff will look for a similar replacement.

Commissioner Frost requested that Commission members use the correct name of the park when referring to a park.

STAFF REPORT – 1. The state’s latest guidelines under ‘Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery’ allows the City to reopen the Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center for some activities and does not impact current operations at the Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center and Stan Bassett Youth and Community Center. Under the new guidance there is some relaxation on the restrictions on youth and adult sports based on the risk category of the sport. 2. The City received funding to extend the Palouse to Cascades reconnection route from the intersection of Alder Street and Nicholson Boulevard to the existing trailhead at the Kittitas Valley Event Center. The new section of trail is approximately .40 miles in length. Trail design is scheduled to take place in 2021 with construction occurring in 2022. 3. The city will be moving forward with hiring the public information officer, a position which has provided our department with a lot of support.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.