

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2022**

DATE OF MEETING: January 12, 2022
MEMBERS PRESENT: Laci Harrison (remotely), Dan Witkowski (remotely), Ali Brown (remotely), Ali Burton (remotely), Kathleen Kelleher (remotely), Fiona Corner (remotely) Nikki Pollock (in person)
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, Council Liaison Elliott
LOCATION: Meeting was held at the Council Conference Room and Remotely

CALL TO ORDER – Commission Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

MEETING MINUTES - The meeting minutes from the November 10, 2021 meeting were approved with a correction to Commission member Harrison's last name. ***All in favor.***

NEW BUSINESS – Commission Elections – Nominations were taken for the position of commission chair and vice chair. For the position of chair Laci Harrison was nominated and selected and for the position of vice chair Dan Witkowski was nominated and selected.

Pearl Street Promenade Survey Results- Staff reviewed the survey results the city received through their 'Be Heard Eburg' online community engagement platform. Over 730 responses were received over a one-month period of time. The survey consisted of seven questions related to the closure of Pearl Street, between 4th & 5th Avenue to vehicular traffic. The community was very split in their support of the project, they were either very supportive or strongly against the idea. The reasons for supporting it was created a more walkable, vibrant downtown. The reasons against the idea focused around downtown parking and traffic patterns.

OLD BUSINESS - Discussion of Council Action Regarding Surplus of Whitfield Triangle and Catherine Park – The staff shared with the Commission the action City Council took regarding the surplus of Whitfield Triangle and Catherine Park. Whitfield Triangle was declared surplus and will be sold on the open market. The proceeds from that sale will go back to the parks & recreation department. The Council did not make a decision on Catherine Park rather they referred the matter back to the Affordable Housing Commission for further review and discussion.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Commission member Witkowski inquired about the sidewalks being plowed at West Ellensburg Park after the recent snow event. Staff reported that the crews were out taking care of sidewalks in the downtown and then would be getting out to park facilities.

Commissioner Pollock discussed the need for additional signage at the Rotary Park XC skiing trails highlighting trail etiquette

Commissioner Harrison, the proud owner of new dog, talked about how well used the Rotary Park off leash park is

Commissioner Brown talked about the lack of a restroom at Kiwanis Park. Staff said that there are portable restrooms at a few different park facilities during the winter months. Portable restrooms are located in parks spread out through town in order to provide access to all neighborhoods with a park restroom. Portable restrooms are located at Rotary Park, North Alder Street Park, Mountain View Park. There are vault toilets available at IRRP and Paul Rogers Park. People using Veterans Memorial Park have access to the pool restroom.

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

Update on Unity Park

STAFF REPORT

1. Over 200 kids have signed for the boy's youth basketball program and the youth indoor soccer program. Additional volunteer coaches are needed in the basketball program.
2. A community group continues to meet about the development of a new skate park at Kiwanis Park.
3. City parks crews have been busy the last week with snow and ice removal through the city. The focus thus far has been on sidewalks on and adjacent to city owned property.
4. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Washington Outdoor School, in cooperation with the City of Ellensburg Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission, will be putting out signage at Paul Rogers Park with quotes from Dr. King. The signs will be placed on January 17th and will remain at the park through the end of January.
5. The Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center has been very busy but operating with significant staffing shortages.
6. The recent winter weather has provided optimal cross-country skiing conditions at Rotary Park. Volunteers from the Ellensburg Ski Club groom the trails with equipment the City helped purchase through the Park Partnership program. All along the same lines, sledding at North Alder Street Park has been very popular with many families. To encourage families to use the park, city staff has placed lights around the picnic shelter to provide additional lighting as well as placing a portable restroom at the park.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34pm.