

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2022**

DATE OF MEETING: February 9, 2022
MEMBERS PRESENT: Laci Harrison (remotely), Dan Witkowski (remotely), Ali Brown (remotely), Ali Burton (remotely), Kathleen Kelleher (remotely), Fiona Corner (remotely) Nikki Pollock (remotely)
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, Council Liaison Monica Miller and two members from the public
LOCATION: Meeting was held at the Council Conference Room and Remotely

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

MEETING MINUTES - The meeting minutes from the January 12, 2022 meeting were approved with a correction to Commission member Harrison's last name. ***All in favor.***

NEW BUSINESS – Unity Park Master Plan Draft Public Engagement Process – Staff reviewed with the Commission a draft process being considered for the development of the Unity Park master plan which is outlined as follows:

Step One - Reengagement- bring back the three stakeholder groups (city staff & commissions, event organizers, downtown business owners and residents). Would be half a day event, an hour with each group, could do this remotely. City staff would identify and invite stakeholder members, many of the original stakeholders are still in the community.

Step Two - Community Outreach – Walker Macy would develop a set of questions or information that staff would get out to the community to gather feedback on park design. This would include outreach through 'Be Heard Eburg' the city's online community engagement platform, civic organization talking tour, working with and having the Ellensburg Downtown Association set up focus groups.

Step Three - Refining and Developing Two Concept Plans – The city would provide you with the all the information we receive during steps 1 & 2, WM works their magic and comes up with the two concept plans.

Step Four – Taking it to the Streets – We take the concept plans and roll them out to the stakeholder groups, parks & recreation commission and community. We envision this being the only visit WM would make to Ellensburg.

Step 5 – Final Plan – based on additional information received in step 4, WM develops the final plan which is then presented remotely to the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council for final approval.

The Commission asked if the remote meetings could include closed captioning (staff will research) and making sure that ADA accessibility within the park and the streets/parking along Pearl and 4th Avenue is something that is included in the park planning.

Pearl Street Promenade Pedestrianization Report Review - Staff gave an overview of the ECONorthwest final report on the Pedestrianization of Pearl Street. Project next steps includes Walker|Macy, through the Unity Park design work, looking at options on how to create connectivity between Unity Park and Pearl Street and for Council to revisit some of the strategies identified in the 2019 parking plan. Commission members had comments about the number of community members who participated in the 'BeHeard Eburg' survey expressing concerns about the project and concerns about to access businesses for those who are disabled.

OLD BUSINESS – Commission Chair Harrison talked about the increase of dog waste being left at city parks, specifically at North Alder Street Park and the Palouse to Cascade Trail Reconnection Route, where she picked up multiple bucket's worth of waste. This issue has recently been highlighted through various social media posts about waste along the State owned and operated section of the Palouse to Cascades Trail and at Paul Rogers Park. Staff stated that there are 19 mutt mitt dispensers located throughout the Ellensburg parks system, including 2 at City Hall. Staff will reach out to the property management teams at the two large apartment complexes bordering North Alder Street Park and the Palouse to Cascades Trail Reconnection asking for assistance in reminding their tenants that there is a leash law and that pet owners must pick up after their pets, as well as place additional temporary signage at parks reminding people to pick up after their pets.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Commission Chair Harrison

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

Update on Unity Park

STAFF REPORT

1. Due to staffing shortages the hours at the Kittitas Valley Memorial & Fitness Center will be reduced. 2. Park picnic rentals will be available to rent June 1 – October 2. Those wishing to use shelters outside of these dates can use them on a first come first serve basis. 3. The Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center has been seeing a lot of use the past three months. 4. Park restrooms are scheduled to open back up for the season on Monday, March 21, the first day of the Ellensburg School District's spring break. 5. The city athletics program is currently registering kids for the youth running club and youth volleyball. 6. Field lights for the Rotary Park youth baseball/softball fields are scheduled to arrive Monday, February 14th. 7. Graffiti at the Kiwanis Park picnic shelter is scheduled to be removed in the next couple of days. The cold weather has prevented park staff from painting over it.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.