

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2022**

DATE OF MEETING: June 8, 2022
MEMBERS PRESENT: Laci Harrison, Ali Brown, Fiona Corner, KT Kelleher, Nick Zentner, Jackie Adams
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, Council Liaison Monica Miller, Brian Bishop, Walker Macy Landscape Architects, Jen Montessor, Walker Macy Landscape Architects, Mark Johnson, Signal Architecture, Nikki Watanabe, Signal Architecture
LOCATION: Meeting was held in the City Council Chambers and Remotely

CALL TO ORDER – Director Case called the meeting to order at 7:25pm after a 25-minute delay due to remote meeting connectivity issues. Commission Chair Harrison was on the call however due to an illness was unable to chair the meeting and the Commission is currently without a Vice Chair.

MEETING MINUTES - The meeting minutes from the May 11, 2022 meeting were approved. ***All in favor.***

NEW BUSINESS – Unity Park Concept Plan & Vision Statement Review – Brian Bishop Walker|Macy – Mr. Bishop provided the Commission with information related to the following:

- Project timeline & next steps
- Park site information which included scale comparisons to other downtown parks located throughout the Pacific Northwest, climatic issues such as wind and sun and how those effect park design and use
- Key design program & features that are believed to be known. These elements include a comfort station, event infrastructure upgrades, plaza/seating areas, interactive water feature, flexible lawn/soft surface area, and art.
- Previous work Walker Macy performed on the park plan in 2018/19
- Information shared with Walker Macy at the May 6th stakeholders meeting that was different than what we heard in 2018/19. This would include the desire for a permanent, not temporary stage, removal of the existing building (former Wells Fargo bank), and that Pearl Street will remain open to vehicles and not changed into a pedestrian zone.
- Laid out specific design principles which will serve as the guiding vision throughout park design and development:
 - Be the central space for Ellensburg's daily gatherings and special events.
 - Feel open, inclusive, and welcoming to residents and visitors alike.
 - Support a flexible range of event types and sizes.
 - Extend the draw of downtown Ellensburg visitors and across four seasons.
 - Be 'of Ellensburg'
- Reviewed park plan concepts 'A' & 'B'
- Discussed key features which is an attempt to drill down and be more specific about things like the water feature, does the community want a splash pad or something like a water sculpture.
- A discussion about what 'Of Ellensburg' means to you?

Comments, feedback, and questions from the Commission:

- Questions about stage in Concept B – northwest corner of the park
- Comment about location of water feature in Concept A
- Unity Park should be peaceful and tranquil, not a place you would have a sprayground at
- There were comments and questions about a sprayground spray to waste or recirculation system
- A comment was made about the feasibility of placing solar on the sunshades
- Fixed vs rotating art pieces
- The discussions of what 'Of Ellensburg' means to Commission members included:
 - Geology and the use of materials like basalt
 - Valleys, mountains, the gorge
 - Sustainability, reusing, recycling
 - Rodeo, Ellensburg Blue
 - Central concept; center of the state and home to Central Washington University
 - Ellensburg is the heart of Washington

OLD BUSINESS – Whitfield Triangle Surplus Update – City staff from the Community Development Department and Parks & Recreation Department met with some of the Whitfield Triangle neighbors on May 26th to discuss the potential surplus of Whitfield and to ascertain their concerns about a potential surplus and to share staff's development recommendation if the site were to remain in city ownership. The issues will be brought back to Council at a future meeting with the request that they provide staff with direction on next steps.

ITEMS FOR JULY 13, 2022 MEETING

Unity Park updates if available.

STAFF REPORT 1. The Rotary Park field lights installation project will be out to bid in the upcoming weeks. The addition of field lights will benefit local organizations that use the park as well as tournaments that are hosted out at the park. 2. Palouse to Cascade Reconnection Route trail work is scheduled to begin in early June. This section of the trail will go from the intersection of 14th & Alder to the PTC trailhead at the Events Center. 3. On May 16, 2022 the City Council held a study session to discuss indoor recreational needs of the community, specifically the need for a community recreation center, a fieldhouse, and if we should keep any of the four existing recreational facilities. The outcome of the discussion was to have staff begin researching the options of community recreation center and fieldhouse.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.