

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2022**

DATE OF MEETING:	August 10, 2022
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Ali Brown, Nick Zentner, Jackie Adams, Nikki Pollock, Laci Harrison,
OTHERS PRESENT:	Parks & Recreation Director Case, Council Liaison Monica Miller, Brian Bishop & Jen Montessor (remotely) Walker Macy
	Landscape Architects, Five members from the public
LOCATION:	Meeting was held in the City Council Conference Room and Remotely

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

MEETING MINUTES - The meeting minutes from the July 13, 2022 meeting were approved. ***All in favor.***

CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Christopher Nicolai, representing the Ellensburg Pickleball Club (EPIC), talked to the Commission about their continued support of growing the sport of pickleball in Ellensburg through the development of new courts and continuing to make space available at the Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center for pickleball play.

OLD BUSINESS – Unity Park Design Update – Jen Montessor & Brian Bishop, Walker Macy – Brian and Jen walked the commission through a design update which included a more developed preferred master plan that looked at shade structure placement, a water feature element that is not a traditional splash pad, comfort station and support building detail, and more conversation about stage orientation including storage and access options. See attached Walker Macy meeting notes for additional detail.

Community member Pat Kelleher and Reed Waite, Unity Park stakeholder, spoke about park design.

Reed Park Master Plan Update – Commissioner KT Kelleher, the Commission representative on the Reed Park master planning stakeholder group, spoke about the meeting with Bob Droll, project landscape architect, about park design. Mr. Droll met individually with 8 community members representing a variety of interests related to Reed Park including immediate neighbors of the park, people who live on the roads that are traditionally traveled by high volumes of people leaving the park, the American Legion, the Kittitas Valley Event Center, and a couple different park users groups (EHS cross country and Kittitas County Field & Stream Club). The intent of the meetings were to gather feedback from community members on the important elements of Reed Park what changes could/should be made, and what park elements need to remain.

Whitfield Triangle Surplus Update – At their August 15, 2022 meeting a resolution will go in front of the Council declaring Whitfield Triangle surplus to city needs. A motion was made to recommend that Council dedicate the proceeds from the sale of the property to future improvement at Reed Park. **Motion passed all in favor.**

ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 MEETING

Unity Park & Reed Park Updates
Park Partnership Presentations

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS – Commissioner Pollock and Commission Chair Brown gave updates on their adopted parks.

STAFF REPORT 1. The Youth Gladiator Dash had a great turnout with over 270 participants. 2. The Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center will be closed 8/29-9/11 for the annual maintenance shutdown. 3. The field lighting project at the Rotary Park youth baseball/softball fourplex will begin Monday, September 26th. 4. A vendor, through a professional services contract, is at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park selling shaved ice a couple of days per week.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

MEETING NOTES

Date: 8/10/22**Time:** 5:30-6:30pm**Project:** Unity Park P3500.02**Attendees:** City of Ellensburg
Brad Case**Parks and Recreation Commissioners**In person:

Nick Zentner

Jackie Adams

Virtually:

Nikki Pollack

Ali Brown

Laci Harrison

Council Member and liaison

Monica Miller

Community Member

Pat Kelleher

Reed Waite

Walker Macy

Brian Bishop, Associate Principal

Jen Montessoro, Project Manager

Topic: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Notes

- Brad provided a brief overview of where we are in the process.
- Brian presented a summary of work done to date and the preferred concept design.

Commissioner feedback:**Laci Harrison**

- Asked if integrated stage lighting had been considered.
 - Brian walked through the different lighting ideas (pole lights with multiple heads both in the lawn area and on stage, catenary lights, locations for event organizers to add additional lighting).
- Suggested that business owners across the alley may want to improve and create a welcoming view of their businesses from the park. The Commission could have those discussions with the owners to improve the aesthetic.

Nikki Pollack

- Likes new water feature ideas (topography, rocks, Columbia Basin)
- Consider local water systems, the streams within the county and town
- Likes the open view into the park from Pearl Street
- The park looks like a very comfortable space

- Asked about the swings in regards to safety.
 - Brian responded that the swings are only located along the alley. They will have limited swing rang, the benches will be highly durable, and the entire structure very sound.
- Suggested a permeable wall along the alley to hide the view but still provide movement through and into the park. Perhaps offset panels.

Nick Zetner

- Likes the design, openness of the SE corner, location of the comfort station, boulders integrated with the water, permanent art, grass and position of the stage
 - Stated that it's tricky to design a park for both events and everyday needs.
 - Thinks the alley is ugly and would like wall along the alley to hide it.
 - Suggested granite boulders, a motif of the Mt Stuart skyline. Basalt is overused.
 - Does not like the permanent shade structures because they remove some of the openness. Prefers the shade sail and would like to see all shade structures be sails.
 - The park should cater to three seasons and not plan for winter.
- Asked if we're planning for all events even those with alcohol, and if so then maybe this isn't the right design.

Ali Brown

- Really happy with the direction the water feature is going and likes the idea of local topography and boulders integrated into the water feature. Prefers this over the splash pad. Likes the idea of misters under shade structures.
- Very happy with design and appreciates how the design team applied Commissioner's comments from the last meeting. Likes the blending of the two design options.
- Understands concerns about alley but doesn't want to close it off for loading to stage and comfort station.

Jackie Adams

- Also worries about view of the alley.
- A slatted wall behind the stage will allow sound from the alley to come through disrupting performances.
- Slats good for sun but what happens when it snows, seating won't be usable if snow on them.
- Likes openness of design.

Community Member Comments:

Pat Kelleher

- Parking was not mentioned, will be eliminating 10% of 300 stalls, it's not a good idea to remove parking from alley.
- Asked how access will be controlled for alcohol sales.
- Asked if individuals will be able to rent the park.
- A delivery truck in the alley won't be able to get past comfort station, the space is too narrow.
- Business across alley can't legally spill out into the park due to alcohol control.
- Suggested making a big investment in the stage to include lighting, sound, and cover.
- Prefers the stage be located in the center.
- The cost estimate hasn't been shared with the public.
- Supports keeping the bank building. It was built to historic standards of downtown.
- The park design doesn't express 'Of Ellensburg.'
- Need turnkey space for events to unburden event hosts.

Reed Waite

- Likes the openness of the plaza.
- Suggested brick or distressed brick for the comfort station.
- Reed parks behind Early Bird and Enchantment Brewery across the alley.
- How people use the alley is problematic. Trucks block the alley and people drive north against the one way. How will trash, loading, and deliveries take place?
- Create a delivery zone where the shade structure is along the alley.
- Traffic will come in from the north and west so consider how their headlights may backlight the stage.
 - Brian responded that the design team will continue to look at alley circulation.

Additional comments from Reed via email after the meeting:

Thanks for Unity Park design recap at Commission meeting this evening. As a steps away IMBY (In My Back Yard!) I'm very excited about progress and design. Some questions/thoughts:

1. Comfort station wall, at least on South side facing 4th, I'm hoping will be brick finish mirroring finish of adjacent buildings. That would be a distressed, or painted, brick that fits in with historic downtown, its neighboring 4th Ave structures: Fitterer's, Tav and Frontier buildings. A bright new red brick would certainly be out of place!
- 2a. Awning over Stage and Lawn areas. It appears to be sloped, down from W to E. Was this determined by angle of sun? Seems to me the time shading would be most beneficial would be late afternoon/evening in summertime heat and thus sloped downward to NW and/or W. Sloping down towards stage area also invites people into the Park and focuses attention across/through to stage. And possibly add some acoustic benefit?
- 2b. How will adjustment/installation/removal of temporary awning be done? What size crew is needed? How will lines be made secure from vandalism?
- 3a. Anticipated height of stage back wall - and material to keep vehicle lights from coming through? Is stage level or slightly titled down towards center of park?
- 3b. Utility/Electric/Sound system controls for stage? Behind W back wall?
- 3c. West ramp (ADA access) up to stage - can't tell if ramp is open to view from stage with safety railing (or is it to be behind a wall (backstage).
- 4a. Is the entire park at grade, with exception of water play feature? Will lawn be slightly raised or lowered and if so, what's transition?
- 4b. Permeable surface for non-lawn areas? I'm sure plantings would love this.
5. Don't see location of beloved bovine art on preferred concept. I'd love to see it located near SE corner slightly in from sidewalk with bull sitting looking in and enjoying park activity. Would move the photographers deeper into the park.
6. Shade structures - banner attachment? Temporary precipitation tarps for events, how to attach? These have the feel of outdoor market booth and I can see them being used by small groups presenting/displaying at community events.
7. Alley - wow, a lot of thought needed here - are Public Works/Police (parking enforcement) in on the conversation?
8. Will there be any greenery/vegetation other than the surrounding trees and lawn?

Thanks for all your work on my backyard park.

Brad Case

- Discussed the serving of alcohol during events and the need to control access for alcohol sales.
- The park and the Adult Activity Center are the only places where alcohol is served on City property.
- Need to decide if City should provide support and infrastructure for events or have event organizers do it.
- May need to design in barriers for events but different events may have different needs for barriers.
- Event organizers need to talk to the City to get permits for events and alcohol sales. The framework to manage events has already been established by the City and is working well.
- Commented on parking concerns and plans the City has for future parking.
- Explained that the design will go before the Landmarks and Design Commission for review so that it fits into the historic downtown.

Brian Bishop

- It's challenging to design in barriers because of different event needs.
- Design team's goal is to design the park to be flexible rather than designing in every possible need.