



Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Agenda
5:30pm, November 9, 2022
City Hall Council Conference Room & Remotely

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83169219717>
Meeting ID: 831 6921 9717

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 14, 2022
 - b. October 12, 2022
- III. Citizen Comment on Non-Agenda Items
- IV. New Business
 - a. Reed Park Tree Memorial Request – Liz Gaines
 - b. Discussion about locating a Community Garden & Pollinator Garden at Wipple Park – Jack Carpenter, Pollinator Garden; Reed Waite, Community Garden
 - c. Trespass Admonishment Overview – Ellensburg Police Department – Captain Dan Hansberry
 - d. Letter to Council Pledging City Supporting use of Non-Hostile Architecture in City Public Spaces – Laci Knudson
- V. Old Business
 - a. Reed Park Update
- VI. December 14, 2022 Meeting – Reed Park Community Meeting #2 at 6pm
- VII. Commission Member Reports / Other Business
- VIII. Staff Reports
- IX. Adjournment

Guidelines for Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Public Comments:

Purpose: Allow the public to address the Commission on subjects not on the regular Agenda at this particular meeting. Comments must concern the City's business or a matter over which the commission has control.

Procedure for Public Participation:

- When recognized, please state your name, and the subject to be discussed.
- Three-minute time limit for citizen comment on non-agenda items (without interruption). Commission will not act on issue. Five-minute time limit for the introduction of new business items, unless extended by a by a majority of Commission members present.
- Submit written comments to Staff representative.
- Speakers are cautioned not to make comments of a personal, impertinent or derogatory nature.
- The Commission does not take action at the meeting at which a subject is first introduced during the public comment period. You may wish to concisely state your concern and request placement of your matter on a future agenda.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2022**

DATE OF MEETING: September 14, 2022
MEMBERS PRESENT: Ali Brown, Laci Harrison, KT Kelleher, Nick Zentner, Jackie Adams, Nikki Pollock
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, Council Liaison Monica Miller, Six 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 August 10, 2022 meeting were approved. ***All in favor.***

NEW BUSINESS – Park Partnership Program – Commission Chair Brown provided the Commission and attendees with an overview of the ‘Park Partnership Program’ and then introduced the two project applicants.

Ellensburg Youth Club – Bob Ford and William Yarwood spoke on behalf of the rugby club and their funding request of \$3,752.00 to install a split rail fence around the new rugby pitch at West Ellensburg Park. The installation of the fence would help define the edge of the park and rugby pitch, as well as provide a higher level of security from vehicles potentially driving out onto the grass and damaging the turf. Over 60 local youth participate in the program with continue growth anticipated.

Ellensburg Pickleball Club (EPIC)– Chris Nicolai, representing EPIC, spoke on behalf of their \$9,600.00 request to purchase and install a windscreen, add interior and perimeter chain link fencing, add a storage unit at the park for maintenance equipment, purchase a training wall, repair existing court cracks and to purchase extra nets and equipment.

A motion and second was made to fund both projects at their full request. Motion passed all in favor.

The total amount available in the fund is \$17,591.00, the request total \$13,352, leaving a balance of \$4,239.00. The Commission requested that staff look into the possibility that the balance of the funds could be used and if so do we have the option to, 1. Roll the funds over into the 2023 Park Partnership Program, 2. Put out a second call for proposals, or 3. If the Commission could recommend a project for the funds to be spent on.

OLD BUSINESS – Reed Park Master Plan & Stakeholders Meeting Review – Nick Zentner
Commissioner Zentner provided the Commission with an update on the September 6th stake holder meetings where two concept plans were reviewed.

Commissioner Kelleher asked if there was a possibility to introduce some of the proposed changes through a pilot program to gauge community support. Staff will discuss with the landscape architect.

One idea was to place QR Code information about the park design work at the park so people could be informed about the proposed changes. Community members commented on the proposed design concepts.

Unity Park Next Steps

Staff provided an update on the planning process. Commissioner Kelleher voiced concerns about the lack of community awareness about the project. Commissioner Zentner stated that he still has concerns about losing the parking stalls currently located at the Unity Park property.

ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 12, 2022 MEETING

Unity Park preferred design plan update

Pickleball Disucssion

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Kelleher talked about some of the concerns about behavior at Mt. View Park, especially during the evening in the northwest corner of the park and asked about adding some lighting to this corner of the park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

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

DATE OF MEETING: October 14, 2022
MEMBERS PRESENT: Ali Brown, Laci Harrison, KT Kelleher, Nick Zentner, Jackie Adams, Nikki Pollock
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, Council Liaison Monica Miller, Three members of 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 September 14, 2022 were tabled as a result of staff inadvertently not providing the meeting minutes in the Commission agenda packet.

NEW BUSINESS – 6 Year Capital Improvement Schedule – City staff introduced the six-year capital improvement schedule to the Commission and explained that this was a document that is updated each year. The CIP is used to help prioritize capital improvement projects for the next six years.

A recommendation to the make the following changes to the schedules:

- Project #6 – Move Kiwanis Park Skatepark up to Project #4 and to the 2023 Planning Horizon
- Project #20- Move Reed Park to Project #5
- Project # 16 – Remove Skatepark Improvements from the list
- Add Pickleball Courts (6) to the CIP

OLD BUSINESS – Park Partnership Surplus Funds – Two applicants submitted project proposals for the 2023 Park Partnership Program totaling \$13,352.00, leaving a balance of \$4,239.00. The Commission requested that the remaining funds be split evenly between the Ellensburg Youth Rugby Club and the Ellensburg Pickleball Club and have each group provide the Commission with a plan for how they will use these funds. *All in favor.*

Neighborhood Meeting Regarding Reed Park Master Plan – William Meyer & Nick Zentner

Commissioner Zentner reported back on a neighborhood meeting put together by Bill Meyer to talk about the Reed Park concept plan options. The neighborhood voiced concerns over losing the majority of the overlook parking and wanted plans developed that would keep the layout of the park as is but make improvements and updates to what is currently there. One of the factors creating this neighborhood sentiment was the possibility of the City adopting a trespass admonishment ordinance which would be another tool that would allow law enforcement to trespass individuals from the park who are in violation of park rules, traffic laws and the like. The Commission had questions about trespass admonishment and if someone from the Ellensburg Police Department could attend the next Commission meeting to explain it to the Commission.

ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 12, 2022 MEETING

Trespass Admonishment Discussion

Letter to City Council from the Commission regarding Hostile Architecture

Park Partnership Program Surplus Funds Proposed Projects from Ellensburg Youth Rugby and the Ellensburg Pickleball Club

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Commissioner Kelleher asked if recent behaviors involving young adults hanging out in their vehicles at Mt. View Park had improved.

Commission Harrison spoke briefly about the Commission sending a letter to City Council requesting that the City not install hostile furniture in any public outdoor spaces and requested that the item be placed on the November 9th agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Dear Ellensburg City Council Members,

In recent years our community and local governments have made a lot of progress on the matters of affordable housing, homelessness, mental health supports, and disability awareness. In light of that progress and moving forward we have a responsibility to take the opportunities given to us while our community grows and we maintain our small town culture.

The pandemic has kept neighbors from helping each other, friends making trips to visit each other or attend events, and children from playing together in public places. It's also taken loved ones which has left holes in our hearts and daily lives.

In a time like this where people are coming together again we need to make deliberate efforts to foster that togetherness; that bravery to say hello to a new neighbor, or the kid walking their dog in a park. Having welcoming and inviting outdoor spaces where people can socialize outdoors comfortably is an important element for rebuilding the togetherness in our community.

We, the Parks and Recreation Commission, ask that you, the Ellensburg City Council, make a formal pledge not to install any hostile architecture in any public outdoor spaces in the City of Ellensburg.

Hostile architecture is specific exclusionary design elements intended to push people along and not be comfortable enough to linger. Sometimes these features are called anti-homeless architecture. Often recognized as the park bench with arm rests in the middle, or more subtle like metal brackets on a concrete planter or bench. A bench that is uncomfortable for more than a few minutes discourages caregivers of kids from resting on a long walk or a place for friends to sit and have coffee. These fixtures are hostile to everyone and are designed to discourage people from lingering for very long. This is the opposite of welcoming and inviting public spaces. Hostile architecture is hostile to all users of a space and makes some features inaccessible for some members of our community with limited mobility.

Impact is more important than intent. There are ripple effects to everything and creating spaces that are welcoming and inviting to all should be a priority over discouraging a possible place a tired person may want to lay their head. Locals and visitors of all ability levels, fitness, age, and housing status need to have public spaces where they can exist and enjoy the beautiful scenery, each others company, and our unique town without the expectation to spend money. Parks and other public resting places try to meet that need and this pledge would support that effort.

Please pledge not to install any hostile architecture in any public outdoor spaces of the City of Ellensburg. Public outdoor spaces should be welcoming to all of the public and promote community bonding and togetherness.

Sincerely,

Ali Brown, Chairperson
on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Appendix A

Photo Examples of Hostile Architecture and Anti-Homeless Design

Image 1: Solid stone benches, seating at 90 degree angle, rounded top prevents sitting or lying down, metal bars on seat to deter skateboarders.



Image 2: A stone building with a tiered base, metal spike strips are installed on the lower tier to prevent anyone from sitting or lying down.



Image 3: A wooden slat street bench with no back and a curved seat.



Image 4: Large boulders placed on a curbside sidewalk as “anti-homeless decorations”.



Image 5: The front entrance courtyard and sidewalk of a large concrete building with vertical pillars, along the street are metal pillars and concrete traffic dividers. No seating, grass, planters, trees, or picnic tables are visible anywhere in the large courtyard. Ghost Amenities is a term for the lack of inviting options.



Image 6: A park bench with steel dividers added to the seat area to prevent anyone from lying on the bench.

