

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

DATE OF MEETING: November 9, 2022
MEMBERS PRESENT: Ali Brown, Laci Harrison, KT Kelleher, Nick Zentner, Jackie Adams
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, Council Liaison Monica Miller, Five members of the public in person, one member from the public remotely
LOCATION: Meeting was held in the City Council Conference Room and Remotely

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

MEETING MINUTES - Minutes from the September 14, 2022 and October 12, 2022 meetings were approved as submitted, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS –

Reed Park Tree Memorial Request – Marni Gaines – Ms. Gaines, representing a group of Ellensburg women, read a request to plant a tree at Reed Park in honor of Joan Nelson. Ms. Nelson was a long-time resident of the Ellensburg community and was involved with a variety of organizations. The tree they are proposing to plant is a European Mountain Ash. A motion was made approving the planting of a memorial tree at Reed Park in honor of Joan Nelson, all in favor.

Discussion about locating a Community Garden & Pollinator Garden at Wippel Park – Jack Carpenter, Pollinator Garden; Reed Waite, Community Garden – Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Wait, each representing their own interests, spoke about the desire to co-locate their gardens at Wippel Park. Wippel Park was donated to the City in 1940, is approximately .5 acres in size, and is located in the West Ellensburg neighborhood within blocks of West Ellensburg Park, Rotary Park, and the Reecer Creek floodplain property. The community garden was previously located on City owned property just south of the Library/Hal Holmes Center and is needing to be relocated due to an affordable housing project planned for the site. The pollinator garden is being brought forward by the Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club. Staff has reached out to the Wippel family about the potential changes to the park and they voiced their support of what is being proposed. A motion was made by the Commission to support the changes to the park, all in favor.

Trespass Admonishment Overview – Ellensburg Police Department – Captain Dan Hansberry – Captain Hansberry provided the Commission with information about a trespass admonishment ordinance which would provide additional ways for the Ellensburg Police Department to address dangerous, unsafe, reasonably disruptive and illegal behavior on public property. Since the ordinance is still being written, Captain Hansberry could only speak in generalities of how and when it could be used. The ordinance would provide EPD the opportunity to trespass individuals based on witness reports of behavior, meaning law enforcement would not have to witness something first hand.

Letter to Council Pledging City Supporting use of Non-Hostile Architecture in City Public Spaces – Laci Knudson – Commissioner Knudson presented a letter to the Commission that she would like to be forwarded to the City Council for consideration. The letter asks that the City Council take a pledge against the practice of hostile architecture in all public outdoor spaces. 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. Commissioner Kelleher voiced concerns over the letter stating that the definition of hostile architecture is ambiguous and that certain design elements in design are done so for the protection of the greater public good. Commission passed a motion, 4-1, recommending that the attached letter be sent to City Council for their review and consideration.

Old Business

Reed Park Update – staff shared four concept plans that would be shared with the community at the November 16th community meeting. The plans were developed through input received from a Reed Park stakeholder group, neighbors of Reed Park, and the community at large. Commission members made recommendations about the complexity of the plans and recommending changes to the plans that would make it easier for the public to interpret, as well as identifying the plans in a manner which laid the plans out sequentially from the least amount of change from the existing park to the most amount of change.

December 14, 2022 Meeting – Staff shared with the Commission that Reed Park Community Meeting #2 was scheduled on the same night as the December Commission meeting. The Commission elected to move the December Commission meeting time from 5:30pm to 4:30pm to accommodate the 6pm park planning meeting.

Staff Reports

Staff provided the following information; 1. Unity Park construction is scheduled to begin in June 2023 shortly after CWU graduation. 2. The Thanksgiving Community Dinner will take place Wednesday, November 23rd, at the Kittitas Valley Event Center Armory, from 3pm-6pm. This is a free event to open anyone from the community. 4. Park restrooms and the front gate at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park has been closed for the season. The City does provide portable restrooms throughout the winter at 4 parks, as well as having vault toilets available at two additional parks. 5. The field light project at Rotary Park is going well, the project will be completed in time for the 2023 baseball/softball spring season. 6. Cross country skiing will once again be available at Rotary Park this winter. 7. Registrations are currently being taken for youth basketball and indoor soccer. The ERRC has been extremely busy, impacts from the remodel of Nicholson Pavilion has resulted in the CWU fastpitch softball teams using the facility after hours for winter workouts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.