

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2023**

DATE OF MEETING: March 15, 2023
MEMBERS PRESENT: KT Kelleher, Jackie Adams, Nikki Pollock, Ali Brown
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, Council Liason Monica Miller, approximately 18 members of the public
LOCATION: Meeting was held in the City Council Chambers and Remotely

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

MEETING MINUTES - The meeting minutes from the February 8, 2023 Commission meeting were approved as submitted with one change to include a motion made by Commissioner Kelleher requesting that the City place signage regarding the proposed changes to Reed Park, along with a QR code linking to information about the park design process and schedule, which died due to a lack of second.

CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ryan Kellogg, downtown business owner and representing the Ellensburg Downtown Association, introduced to the Commission a pilot program to create a pet waste area in the downtown. The idea is to convert to one of the unadopted downtown garden nodes into an area downtown residents and visitors can take their pets to use the bathroom. The Commission requested that Mr. Kellogg come back to the April meeting to present the proposal in further detail.

A few members of the public voiced their concerns with the Reed Park master plan that went before Council for approval and the negative impact the plan has on American Legion parking; the concern that this the park road is public street without sidewalks; that the Legion Post Commander be notified of all meetings where the Reed Park is going to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS – Reed Waite, community garden organizer, recommended to the Commission that the community garden planned for Wippel Park be called the Wippel Community Garden

The garden will be within Wippel Park, identifies its location in the city for the public, and better differentiates this community garden from the Ellensburg Community Garden located at St. Andrews. When the proposed Rotary-developed pollinator garden installs, the two can be called Wippel Park Gardens, having a common pathway integrating them within the Park.

A motion and second was made to name the community garden at Wippel Park the 'Wippel Community Garden'. Motion passed all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS - Unity Park Design Update – Brian Bishop from Walker Macy provided the Commission with a design update for Unity Park. Some of the key elements pointed out by Mr. Bishop include:

- Reducing the amount of bathroom stalls from 3 to 2
- Provided a few different options for seating
- Proposed location for the Ellensburg Bull Sculpture
- Stage access
- Water feature options

One member of the public voiced concerns over the water feature and had comments over seating options.

ITEMS FOR APRIL 12, 2023 MEETING

Reed Park Master Plan Update

Pet Relief Stations Downtown

Pollinator Garden Name

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS/OTHER BUSINESS

STAFF REPORTS – 1. Staff told the Commission that the Reed Park master plan was being referred back to the Commission for the purposes of developing a park plan that mitigates the parking concerns of the American Legion. 2. City park restrooms and the gates at Rotary Park & Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park will open Monday, March 20th. The Rotary Park restroom will remain closed due to the field lighting project however two portable bathrooms will be provided. 3. Youth athletic programs continue to very popular, the Tiny Tots t-ball, which had 84 spots available, filled up in a little over an hour and over 200 kids are participating in the youth volleyball league this spring.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.