

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2023**

DATE OF MEETING: April 12, 2023
MEMBERS PRESENT: Jackie Adams, Frana Milan, Nick Zentner, Ali Brown
OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Case, Council Liason 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 – Meeting minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION MEMBER – Frana Milan introduced herself to the Commission. Frana worked in the parks and recreation field for over 20 years and brings to the Commission a wide breadth of professional experience.

CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Pat Kelleher asked about signage placed at Reed Park that included information about the park plan update and a QR code. Staff stated that the signage had been in place at the park since Fall 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Naming of Pollinator Garden at Wippel Park – Jack Carpenter – Jack Carpenter, Ellensburg Rotarian and spokesperson for the pollinator garden at Wippel Park, recommended to the Commission that the pollinator garden planned for Wippel Park be called the Wippel Heritage Pollinator Garden. The name will have consistencies with the Wippel Community Garden, which will share space at Wippel Park and be connected via common path.

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

Pet Relief Stations – Ryan Kellogg, EDA Board Member – Mr. Kellogg presented to the Commission the idea of creating a pet relief station in downtown Ellensburg at the intersection of 4th & Pine. The purpose of this project is to create a designated place in the downtown where visitors and residents with pets can take their pets to use the bathroom. By the end of 2023 there will be over 180 apartment/condominium units in downtown Ellensburg, many of those residents who own a dog currently use the corner garden nodes or tree wells, which has a negative impact on the health of downtown trees and beautification program. This project would repurpose a unadopted 300 square foot garden node into a pet friendly area of anti-microbial turn, drainage, a mutt mitt dispenser and signage.

Staff added that the Unity Park plan includes an additional pet relief station and depending on the success of the 4th & Pine project, that there may also be interest in locating something on publicly owned property near the intersection of 5th & Main, where over half of the downtown apartment units are located. The anticipated cost of this improvement is \$5,300.00 and will be paid for and installed by the EDA. Anticipated installation date is within the next 60 days.

The Parks & Recreation Commission supported the project as it moves on to Council for final approval.

Appointing a Commission Member to Serve on the Rotary Park Stakeholder Committee – Jackie Adams volunteered to serve on the Rotary Park Master Plan Update stakeholder group on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Commission. All in favor.

ITEMS FOR MAY10, 2023 MEETING

Rotary Park Master Plan Update

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS/OTHER BUSINESS

STAFF REPORTS – 1. A \$7million funding request submitted through Congresswoman Schrier's office for the Rotary Park fieldhouse has been selected to move forward in the appropriations process along with 15 other projects from Washington's 8th District. The selection at this stage means it will be submitted to the House Appropriations Committee with a request that it be included in the FY2024 appropriations bills as one of 15 projects from Washington's 8th District. There is no guarantee that our project will receive this funding as both chambers in Congress will need to pass funding bills that can be signed into law this year. 2. On Saturday April 22nd the City will be celebrating its 40th year as a Tree City USA community. The event will take place from 10am-1pm at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park and will include kids' activities, ceremonial tree planting, and a food truck. 3. Staff will be meeting with board members on April 20th to discuss the Reed Park master plan and options to address concerns Legion members voiced at the March 7th Council meeting. 4. The field lighting project at the Rotary Park youth baseball/softball complex is completed. The addition of the field lights will not only have a positive impact on the local youth sports programs but for the 10 youth baseball tournaments scheduled to take place at Rotary Park in 2023. 5. The city, along with community partners, will be hosting the 'Ride to Renslow', a 18-mile roundtrip bike ride on Saturday, May 20th. The ride will leave Unity Park at 9am, with a stop at the Kittitas Train Depot, then crossing the Renslow Trestle over Interstate 90. A free shuttle will be provided back to Ellensburg for those interested. In addition to the Renslow Ride, there will be shorter 5.38-mile ride from Unity Park to North Alder Street along the Palouse to Cascades Trail Reconnection Route. 6. There is currently one open commission position with another seat up for reappointment May 31, 2023. Applicants will be going through the appointment interviews over the course of the next few weeks for the open positions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.