

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
January 12, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cummins called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Jim Barrow, Barbara Clark, Mary Lou Jenkins, Dick Morgan, Chris Plucker, Allen Pomraning and Mayor Jerry Cummins

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shaw, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Heritage Park.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reported that the 2014 Sherwood Trust Leadership class are proposing changes to Heritage Square park. The proposed changes are not in conflict with efforts to make the park more attractive and family-friendly. Parks & Recreation Director Dumont introduced Kelsey Beckmeyer of the 2014 Sherwood Trust Leadership class. Director Dumont and Ms. Beckmeyer reviewed:

- Property owned by the City and common wall ownership.
- Original playground equipment and fencing around the playground was installed to meet requirements for a daycare that had been provided by Broetje Orchards on Main Street.
- The goals of the 2014 Sherwood Trust Leadership class project are to redesign and add art elements to Heritage Square park by:
 - Removing the existing playground equipment, fence, and bark.
 - Laying sod and building a berm to make the site more symmetrical and appealing.
 - Install café seating, children's toys, and benches.
 - Install unique and interactive musical instruments.
- If enough funding is available, the 2014 Sherwood Trust Leadership class envisions removing the existing picnic shelter and concrete pad and building a new plaza as Phase 2.

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- Projected costs are slightly over \$24,000 for this redesign and implementation.

There was discussion on:

- Existing pathway through the park.
- Moving the tables and benches so they are oriented towards the street.
- Expanding the park back towards Mill Creek would eliminate the existing nine parking spaces in the parking lot.
- Adding a pedestrian bridge over Mill Creek at the back of the park to provide Interconnectivity with Alder Street.
- Designing the space so the tables and benches can be moved to allow for a public gathering space.
- Existing trees within the park and raising the tree canopies.
- Ownership of the parking lot.
- Placing double-sided benches or backless benches along Main Street for a more welcoming feel.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Members of the 2014 Sherwood Trust Leadership class in attendance introduced themselves.

B. Youth Alliance.

Police Chief Bieber introduced Tim Meliah, Director of Catholic Charities and member of the Youth Alliance. Other members of the Youth Alliance in attendance were also introduced.

Mr. Meliah reviewed:

- In 2005, a ten-year homeless housing plan was completed. This plan identified the absence of emergency shelter for unaccompanied youth ages thirteen to seventeen.
- Results of the research into youth homelessness.
- A pivotal shift was experienced in 2011 to try to provide a "one stop shop" of comprehensive services for youth in need.
- The Youth Alliance was formed in 2013 and work was completed as part of a Community Development Block grant planning-only grant for a youth center.
- The Youth Alliance has identified the property owned by the Blue Mountain Action Council next to Lincoln High School as the optimal site for youth services based on numerous factors.

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There was discussion on:

- Helping youth transition out of homelessness.
- Partnerships with law enforcement.
- Proposed services to be provided to youth.
- Involvement by other government jurisdictions.
- Proposed design and funding sources.
- Blue Mountain Action Council would serve as the lead agency and fiscal agent. Other services would be provided through community partnerships.
- Measurements to determine if efforts are successful.

Mayor Cummins invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the Council at this time.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.