



CITY OF ELLENSBURG
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Ph: (509) 962-7221 Fax: (509) 962-7143

January 23, 2024

Honorable Senator Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District

RE: Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse Project Final Design Funding

Dear Senator Warnick:

We are respectfully seeking partial funding for the timely construction of a new Community Fieldhouse following the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center. The City of Ellensburg is requesting \$1.5 million in community capital project funding necessary for the completion Phase II, Final Design and Permitting of the new Community Fieldhouse facility.

The fire incident on December 2, 2022, resulted in a total loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center, creating an immediate barrier to access public health facilities in Ellensburg and Kittitas County communities. In addition to being the hub for indoor fitness, the former facility served as a place for active social gathering and public health programming in our rural county. The loss of this facility creates an urgent need to address public health access in our community.

The City Council received messages and testimony from community members highlighting the importance of the former facility and the need to rebuild in a location accessible to the centralized population in Ellensburg. This project has extensive community support, as this facility will serve a diverse population, addressing health concerns and serve a community that experiences extreme climate conditions throughout the year. Additionally, we have provided letters of support from a broad cross-section of community partners, demonstrating the public value of this project.

The City, County, and community are working together to fund this facility. We intend to rebuild on City-owned land at Rotary Park, our existing outdoor sports complex. Improving upon the former facility, the new health and fitness center will be served by transit and will be energy efficient and ADA accessible to serve all community members.

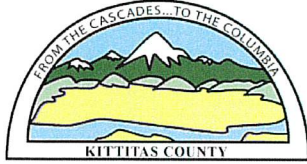
We appreciate your consideration of this funding request to provide for the construction of a new facility that will meet the needs of current and future generations of people across Central Washington.

Please contact me at 509-201-6280 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rich Elliot".

Rich Elliot, Mayor
The City of Ellensburg



Kittitas County, Washington

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District One
Cory Wright

District Two
Laura Osiadacz

District Three
Brett Wachsmith

January 23, 2024

Honorable Senator Warnick

RE: City of Ellensburg Letter of Support for Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse Project

Kittitas County is proud to support the City of Ellensburg's request to provide partial funding for timely construction of a new Community Fieldhouse following the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center.

The fire incident on December 2, 2022, resulted in a total loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center, creating an immediate barrier to access public health facilities in Ellensburg and Kittitas County communities. In addition to being the hub for a dynamic indoor fitness, gymnastics, and other recreational opportunities, the 32,000 square foot indoor facility served as a place for active social gathering and public health programming within an economically distressed rural Washington county. The loss of this facility creates an urgent need to address public health access in Kittitas County. Approximately \$1.8 million of the insurance settlement will be forfeited if the new facility does not demonstrate sufficient assurance for construction by December 2024.

We applaud the City's collaborative approach in working with Kittitas County, Central Washington University, Kittitas Valley Health Network, County Public Health Department, and other public and private partners to envision a multi-use indoor total wellness facility to meet accessibility, and social-emotional health and fitness needs, at Rotary Park—a city-owned 100-acre regional outdoor recreation complex in Ellensburg. The City's goal is to create a facility that has maximum impact on public health, education, social services, economic development/tourism, emergency operations staging, air quality emergency shelter, energy efficient public facilities, and recreation fitness in this rural community. The proposal addresses the immediate loss of the Racquet and Recreation Center while meeting current and future community needs.

We appreciate your consideration of the City's request to provide a new facility that will meet the needs of current and future generations of people across the Kittitas Valley and region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brett Wachsmith, Chair

Laura Osiadacz, Vice Chair

Cory Wright, Commissioner



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

January 18, 2024

RE: City of Ellensburg Letter of Support for Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse Project

To Whom It May Concern,

Central Washington University is proud to support the City of Ellensburg's request to provide partial funding for timely construction of a new Community Fieldhouse following the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center.

The fire incident on December 2, 2022, resulted in a total loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center, creating an immediate barrier to access public health facilities in Ellensburg and Kittitas County communities. In addition to being the hub for a dynamic indoor fitness, gymnastics, and other recreational opportunities, the 32,000 square foot indoor facility served as a place for active social gathering and public health programming within an economically distressed rural Washington county. The loss of this facility creates an urgent need to address public health access in Kittitas County. Approximately \$1.8 million of the insurance settlement will be forfeited if the new facility does not demonstrate sufficient assurance for construction by December 2024.

We applaud the City's collaborative approach in working with our university along with many other organizations in Kittitas County and the city of Ellensburg, including the Kittitas Valley Health Network and the County Public Health Department, along with other public and private partners. Together, we have developed a vision for a multi-use indoor total wellness facility to meet accessibility, and social-emotional health and fitness needs, at Rotary Park—a city-owned 100-acre regional outdoor recreation complex in Ellensburg. The City's goal is to create a facility that has maximum impact on public health, education, social services, economic development/tourism, emergency operations staging, air quality emergency shelter, energy efficient public facilities, and recreation fitness in this rural community. The proposal addresses the immediate loss of the Racquet and Recreation Center while meeting current and future community needs.

We appreciate your consideration of the City's request to provide for a new facility that will meet the needs of current and future generations of people across the Kittitas Valley and region.

Please contact me at 509-963-2111 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Wohlpart, President
Central Washington University
400 E. University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Office of the President

400 E University Way | Ellensburg WA 98926-7500 | Office: 509-963-2111
Barge Hall 314 | Email: president@cwu.edu | Web: cwu.edu/president

CWU is an EEO/AA/Title IX Institution. For accommodation email: DS@cwu.edu.

This is an electronic communication from Central Washington University.



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

January 22, 2024

Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell, Honorable Senator Patty Murray
United States Senator for the State of Washington
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

RE: City of Ellensburg Letter of Support for Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse Project

To: Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) supports the City of Ellensburg in their pursuit of creating infrastructure that promotes health and wellbeing within Kittitas County.

According to the most recent Community Health Assessment (CHA), Kittitas County residents have less access to exercise opportunities than the rest of the state. The Assessment also found consistent responses of frustration over the lack of activities for youth and families to participate in and focus group members expressed a new recreation center would improve access to opportunities for children and adults alike.

Major cardiovascular diseases have and continue to be the leading cause of death in Kittitas County. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, physical activity helps to reduce the risk of chronic disease, which includes major cardiovascular disease.

Infrastructure, such as a new community fieldhouse, provides opportunities for physical activities as well as prosocial community involvement. An increase of family and youth recreation activities was listed as an opportunity in the Community Health Assessment.



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

KCPHD's vision is that all Kittitas County residents have the freedom and ability to pursue healthy lives in a healthy environment and we fully support the City of Ellensburg with increasing groundwork for health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chelsey Loeffers".

Chelsey Loeffers, Public Health Director

Kittitas County Public Health

Chelsey.loeffers@co.kittitas.wa.us

509-962-7029

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Larson MD".

Mark Larson, MD, Health Officer

Kittitas County Public Health

mark.larson@co.kittitas.wa.us

509-962-7515



January 19, 2024

RE: City of Ellensburg Letter of Support for Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Kittitas Valley Healthcare is proud to support the City of Ellensburg's request to provide partial funding for timely construction of a new Community Fieldhouse following the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center.

The fire incident on December 2, 2022, resulted in a total loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center, creating an immediate barrier to access public health facilities in Ellensburg and Kittitas County communities. In addition to being the hub for a dynamic indoor fitness, gymnastics, and other recreational opportunities, the 32,000 square foot indoor facility served as a place for active social gathering and public health programming within an economically distressed rural Washington county. The loss of this facility creates an urgent need to address public health access in Kittitas County. Approximately \$1.8 million of the insurance settlement will be forfeited if the new facility does not demonstrate sufficient assurance for construction by December 2024.

We applaud the City's collaborative approach in working with Kittitas County, Central Washington University, Kittitas Valley Health Network, County Public Health Department, and other public and private partners to envision a multi-use indoor total wellness facility to meet accessibility, and social-emotional health and fitness needs, at Rotary Park—a city-owned 100-acre regional outdoor recreation complex in Ellensburg. The City's goal is to create a facility that has maximum impact on public health, education, social services, economic development/tourism, emergency operations staging, air quality emergency shelter, energy efficient public facilities, and recreation fitness in this rural community. The proposal addresses the immediate loss of the Racquet and Recreation Center while meeting current and future community needs.

We appreciate your consideration of the City's request to provide for a new facility that will meet the needs of current and future generations of people across the Kittitas Valley and region.

Please contact me at 509-962-7301 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Petersen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julie Petersen, CEO



Through cross-sector **community collaboration** and systems integration, we aim to ensure that **all people** in Kittitas County are **supported** in achieving **health and well-being**.

January 22, 2024

RE: City of Ellensburg Letter of Support for Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse Project

To whom it may concern:

The Kittitas County Health Network (KCHN) is proud to support the City of Ellensburg's request to provide partial funding for timely construction of a new Community Fieldhouse following the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center. KCHN's work is driven by the Kittitas County Community Health Improvement Plan where one of the main goals is that children, youth, and families in Kittitas County are safe, healthy, and thriving with equitable access to services. A priority area within this goal is increasing access to healthy activities and recreation in the community. The Community Fieldhouse is key to making this happen.

The fire incident on December 2, 2022, resulted in a total loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center, creating an immediate barrier to access public health facilities in Ellensburg and Kittitas County communities. In addition to being the hub for a dynamic indoor fitness, gymnastics, and other recreational opportunities, the 32,000 square foot indoor facility served as a place for active social gathering and public health programming within an economically distressed rural Washington county. The loss of this facility creates an urgent need to address public health access in Kittitas County. Approximately \$1.8 million of the insurance settlement will be forfeited if the new facility does not demonstrate sufficient assurance for construction by December 2024.

We applaud the City's collaborative approach in working with Kittitas County, Central Washington University, Kittitas County Health Network, Kittitas County Public Health Department, and other public and private partners to envision a multi-use indoor total wellness facility to meet accessibility, and social-emotional health and fitness needs, at Rotary Park—a city-owned 100-acre regional outdoor recreation complex in Ellensburg. The City's goal is to create a facility that has maximum impact on public health, education, social services, economic development/tourism, emergency operations staging, air quality emergency shelter, energy efficient public facilities, and recreation fitness in this rural community. The proposal addresses the immediate loss of the Racquet and Recreation Center while meeting current and future community needs.

We appreciate your consideration of the City's request to provide for a new facility that will meet the needs of current and future generations of people across the Kittitas Valley and region.

Please contact me at robin@healthierkittitas.org if you need additional information.

Sincerely, Robin Read, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Read", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mailing: 110 W. 6th Ave PMB #393 Ellensburg WA 98926
Physical: 107 E. Mountain View Ave Ellensburg WA 98926
Office: 509-933-7544 **Fax:** 509-933-7548 **Website:** Healthierkittitas.org

January 19, 2024

Yakima Center
402 S 4th Avenue
P.O. Box 959
Yakima, WA 98907
(509) 575-4084

Ellensburg Center
707 N. Pearl Street, Suite K
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 925-9861

Cle Elum Center
402 E. 1st Street, Suite 101
Cle Elum, WA 98922
(509) 674-2340

Sunnyside Center
1319 Saul Road
Sunnyside, WA 98944
(509) 837-2089

Pasco Center
2715 Saint Andrews Loop
Suite C
Pasco, WA 99301
(509) 412-1051

Goldendale Center
112 W. Main Street
Goldendale, WA 98620
(509) 773-5801

Walla Walla Center
1520 Kelly Place, Suite 234
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 524-2920

White Salmon Center
432 NE Tohomish Street
White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-3400

www.comphc.org

RE: City of Ellensburg Letter of Support for Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse Project

To whom it may concern:

As a licensed behavioral health agency and state certified substance use disorder agency, we have been providing recovery-oriented services for over 50 years. We are contracted to provide a complete continuum of behavioral health services by both public and private funding sources. We accept many direct and indirect referrals for services from a variety of sources. We provide integrated care for those with substance use disorders (SUDs) and co-occurring disorders (CODs). Comprehensive Healthcare offers Inpatient and Outpatient Mental Health and SUD services across the spectrum of care, to include Crisis Triage Services, Evaluation & Treatment, Residential, and Sub-acute Detox Programs. Our licensed facilities span across the Greater Columbia Region. We have three locations in Kittitas County with two of those being in Ellensburg.

Comprehensive Healthcare has partnered with the City of Ellensburg for many years. Our Agency is proud to support the City of Ellensburg's request to provide partial funding for timely construction of a new Community Fieldhouse following the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center.

The fire incident on December 2, 2022, resulted in a total loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center, creating an immediate barrier to access public health facilities in Ellensburg and Kittitas County communities. In addition to being the hub for a dynamic indoor fitness, gymnastics, and other recreational opportunities, the 32,000 square foot indoor facility served as a place for active social gathering and public health programming within an economically distressed rural Washington county. The loss of this facility creates an urgent need to address public health access in our community.

We applaud the City's collaborative approach in working with Kittitas County, Central Washington University, and other public and private partners to envision a multi-use indoor total wellness facility to meet accessibility, and social-emotional health and fitness needs, at Rotary Park (also developed through a collaborative partnership), a city-owned 100-acre regional outdoor recreation complex in Ellensburg. The City's goal is to create a facility that has maximum impact on public



health, education, social services, economic development/tourism, infrastructure, energy efficiency, and recreation in our rural community. The proposal addresses the immediate loss of the Racquet and Recreation Center while meeting current and future community needs.

We appreciate your consideration of the City's request to provide for the construction of a new facility that will meet the needs of current and future generations of people across the Kittitas region.

Please contact me using the information below if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edie Dibble". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Edie Dibble

Chief Operating Officer

Edie.Dibble@comphc.org

509-573-3626

Special Olympics Washington



January 19, 2024

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide free year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Support for Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse

Please accept this letter of support for the Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse on behalf of Special Olympics Washington. Our mission is very complimentary to that of the Community Fieldhouse, and the proposed facility would foster growth in our programming in the Ellensburg area.

Ellensburg Special Olympics currently serves about 80 athletes, participating in Bowling, Basketball, Cycling, and Swimming. With a Community Fieldhouse, sports such as Volleyball, Soccer, Bocce, Flag Football, and a Walking Club could be considered. Special Olympics Washington has ramped up its Healthy Athletes program. This program is designed to help Special Olympics athletes improve their health and fitness, leading to enhanced sports experience and improved well-being. Special Olympics created its Healthy Athletes program in 1997 to identify and address the health disparities that people with ID face. A new Community Fieldhouse in Ellensburg could be a catalyst for our athletes to improve their health.

Throughout the state, Special Olympics hosts activities in facilities that lack modern amenities, and sometimes limit our athletes because ADA access is poor. A new, modern, inclusive facility sends a message to marginalized populations that they are an important part of the Ellensburg community.

The proposed facility would be ideal to host Regional and State Special Olympics events, with its beautiful new amenities and ideal location to join East & West Washington teams together. These events would bring hundreds of athletes and their families to the Ellensburg area.

In other cities around Washington, Special Olympics has MOUs and partnerships with YMCAs, Community Centers, ARCs, Parks & Recreations, and Boys & Girls Clubs. I would foresee a similar complimentary partnership with the Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse.

It is with great excitement that Special Olympics Washington endorses a plan to build a Community Fieldhouse in Ellensburg.

Tim Toon, East Region Program Manager

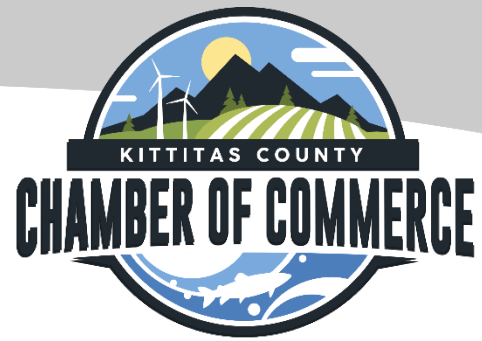
Special Olympics Washington

2815 2nd Ave, Suite 370

Seattle, WA 98121

Phone: 206 681-9385

ttoon@sowa.org



January 19, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce is honored to extend our wholehearted support for the City of Ellensburg's request to secure partial funding for the timely construction of a new Community Fieldhouse, a project conceived in response to the unfortunate loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center.

The devastating fire incident on December 2, 2022, not only resulted in the total loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center but also created a significant barrier to accessing public health facilities in Ellensburg and the surrounding Kittitas County communities. The 32,000 square foot indoor facility was more than just a space for dynamic fitness, gymnastics, and recreational activities—it served as a vital hub for active social gathering and public health programming in an economically distressed rural Washington county.

Understanding the urgency to address public health access in Kittitas County, our Agency acknowledges the immediate need for a new facility. It is crucial to highlight that approximately \$1.8 million of the insurance settlement will be forfeited if the new facility does not demonstrate sufficient assurance for construction by December 2024.

We commend the City's collaborative efforts in working with various stakeholders, including Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, Central Washington University, Kittitas Valley Health Network, County Public Health Department, and other public and private partners. This collaboration aims to envision a multi-use indoor total wellness facility at Rotary Park—a city-owned 100-acre regional outdoor recreation complex in Ellensburg.

Aligned with the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce's mission of "Empowering local businesses, enriching community," the proposed facility seeks to meet accessibility, social-emotional health, and fitness needs while addressing the immediate loss of the Racquet and Recreation Center and catering to the current and future needs of the community. The City's goal is ambitious, aiming to create a facility with maximum impact on public health, education, social services, economic development/tourism, emergency operations staging, air quality emergency shelter, energy-efficient public facilities, and recreation fitness in this rural community.

We appreciate your consideration of the City's request to provide a new facility that will not only meet the needs of the current generation but also positively impact future generations across the Kittitas Valley and the region.

Sincerely,

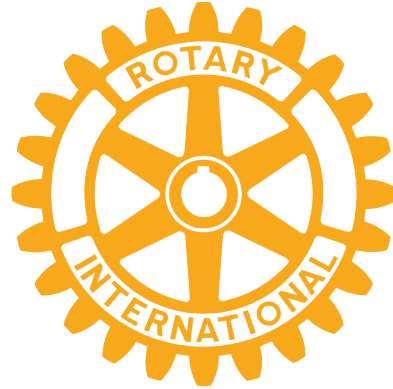
Chief Executive Officer

609 N Main Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(888) 925-2204



CONNECT WITH US
KittitasCountyChamber.com
(509) 925-2002

Rotary



David Snider
President
Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club
PO Box 12
Ellensburg WA. 98926
February 14, 2023

Heidi Behrends-Cerniwey
Ellensburg City Manager
City of Ellensburg
501 N Anderson Street
Ellensburg WA. 98926

Dear Heidi Behrends-Cerniwey:

Following the December 2, 2022, fire loss of the Ellensburg Racket and Recreational Center which created an emergent public health concern, this correspondence from the Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club is intended to express support for the proposed multi-million-dollar fieldhouse construction project at Rotary Park in the City of Ellensburg. Our Rotary Club is made up of 70 members and it is one of three Rotary clubs in Ellensburg, and we are a key community stakeholder in this project, and it is our collective desire to help ensure the successful completion of this very important project due to its many beneficial effects on our community and to fill the void created by the loss of the old Racket and Recreation Center.

In addition to replacing the Racket and Recreation Center, this proposed 100,000 sq ft indoor recreation facility will provide year-round health and wellness activities for the community and will also have a beneficial financial component to the economy in Kittitas County. This multi-use building supports diverse recreation interests and populations with multi-use indoor turf, hard surface courts, and other capabilities including a fitness track.

The Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club has a strong interest in seeing the completion of this fieldhouse project and we are working with other stakeholders to ensure that this important and needed project

comes to fruition for the health and welfare of our community and the positive economic impact it will have for Kittitas County. Therefore, we strongly urge the Ellensburg City Council to support the funding and construction of the proposed fieldhouse at Rotary Park and we look forward to an affirmative vote on this matter by the Ellensburg City Council.

We are looking forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Snider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" and the last name "Snider" clearly distinguishable.

David Snider

President

Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club

January 24, 2024

Dear Washington State Lawmaker,

I send this letter of support for funding of the Ellensburg Wellness and Recreation Facility.

25 years ago, the Kittitas County Commissioners appointed a group of citizens to improve the recreational opportunities for residents of the County. Since that time, we have developed a wonderful recreation facility in West Ellensburg we call Rotary Park. The time has come to complete the facility.

Three years ago, a group of citizens began planning an indoor recreation facility for Rotary Park. Winters are long in Central Washington and indoor recreation and wellness space is hard to come by. In light of that, We began planning a 150,000 square foot indoor facility to fill that need. The need for indoor recreation space increased dramatically in December of 2022 when we lost our only recreational facility to fire.

Now we need your help. We are requesting funding to help build the Ellensburg Wellness and Recreation Facility at Rotary Park. This facility will make available a place for citizens of all ages to exercise year-round. It will double as a facility to host regional shows, expos and tournaments. These activities will bring the necessary tourism dollars to our community.

I look forward to a day in the near future where we can all join together at Rotary Park in West Ellensburg to cut a ribbon and get construction of this project started.

Thank You for serving the Great State of Washington,

Jeff Greear
940 Southridge Dr
Ellensburg, Wa 98926
509.607.3235

January 26, 2023

Kristine Miller, MBA, CHE, CSW
Executive Director
CenterFuse
207 N Pearl St 2
Ellensburg, WA 98296

RE: CenterFuse Letter of Support for Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse Project

To:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Ellensburg's initiative to obtain funding for the construction of the new Ellensburg Community Fieldhouse. This endeavor is especially crucial given the devastating fire on December 2, 2022, which led to the complete loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center. This tragedy has significantly impacted our community's access to vital public health facilities and highlighted the urgent need for such infrastructure in Ellensburg and Kittitas County.

The Racquet and Recreation Center was an integral part of our community, offering a wide range of indoor fitness, gymnastics, and other recreational activities. It was also a lively social gathering space and key to public health initiatives in our rural Washington county. The absence of this facility has been felt deeply in our community and has highlighted an urgent need for accessible public health and recreation facilities in the area.

I am proud of the City's collaborative effort in developing this project. Working alongside Kittitas County, Central Washington University, Kittitas Valley Health Network, and the County Public Health Department, the City is planning a multifunctional indoor wellness facility at Rotary Park, a city-owned 100-acre regional outdoor recreation complex. This facility aims to significantly impact various areas such as public health, education, social services, economic development, tourism, and more in our community.

As a member of CenterFuse, Ellensburg's Business Development Authority, a graduate of Central Washington University, and a very proud member of the community, I see the immense value this project will bring in terms of health, wellness, and economic growth. The proposal responds to the immediate void left by the loss of the Racquet and Recreation Center and aims to fulfill the evolving needs of our community, both now and in the future.

With approximately \$1.8 million of the insurance settlement contingent on progress by December 2024, timely action is critical. I appreciate your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 509.306.5023 should you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Kristine Miller