

Memorandum

Date: November 2, 2020

To: Ellensburg City Council

Cc: John Akers, City Manager

From: Parks & Recreation Commission

Subject: Park Master Planning Recommendation for Reed Park

At the September 8, 2020 Council meeting the Council heard a request from a few of the Reed Park neighbors requesting that the City develop a new master plan for Reed Park. Included in the request were three park plan design proposals developed by the neighbors. The Council referred the matter to the Parks & Recreation Commission for additional discussion and further consideration.

The Commission discussed the Reed Park issues and park design proposals at their September 14, 2020 and October 16, 2020 meetings. Park neighbors participated in both meetings and shared their story of what it's like living near the park, or along one of the streets accessing or leaving the park. The message from the neighbors was consistent and clear, they have concerns with pedestrian safety, the number of cars driving to and from the park, the driving behaviors of those driving to or from Reed Park, and general park behavior. They stated that the community as whole is reluctant to use the park because of the behaviors and attitudes exhibited by those currently using park, the majority of which are thought to be high school and college age.

At the October 16th Commission meeting a motion was passed recommending that the City Council move forward with making physical changes to the park as soon as possible. A second motion was passed recommending that the City use park impact fees to hire a landscape architect to handle the public participation process in developing a master plan that focuses on pedestrian safety, traffic circulation, and viewpoint access. The Commission recognizes that the popularity and history of Reed Park necessitates the need for a comprehensive public outreach and participation process. Anticipated cost of the master planning process is estimated between \$15,000.00-\$20,000.00 which will require a budget request coming back to Council at a future meeting. Both motions passed 4-0.