

November 30, 2015

The Chehalis city council met in a special session on Monday, November 30, 2015, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dawes called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, and Chad Taylor. Councilor Ketchum was absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director; and Judy Pectol, Finance Manager.

1. Work Session – Review Detailed Recreation Park Concepts and Provide Direction to the Administration.

The council held a special work session to discuss the recommended design concepts for the Recreation Park Improvement Project.

Project Manager Tom Skillings and his design team walked the council through each of the park components to solicit their input. The items of discussion included:

- Ballfield number/configuration
- Penny Playground options
- Building options
- Drainage
- Frontage improvements
- Other park features
- Layout of park feature concepts
- Phasing
- Stan Hedwall Park evaluation

After reviewing all of the options and design features, the council reached consensus to move forward on design of the following Phase 1 improvements:

Ballfields:

- Utilizing the existing ballfields at Recreation Park – minor improvements only with Phase 1
- Do extensive maintenance work to fix the surface drainage and accessibility
- Keep the four ballfields at Recreation Park while exploring a comprehensive master plan for full site at Stan Hedwall Park

Penny Playground:

- Replace the existing Penny Playground with a larger facility made of modern durable materials
- Expand size to include a wider variety of ages/abilities/interest
- Universal surfacing/slip resistant
- Better sight lines
- Try to recapture the process used to build the original Penny Playground, get community involved

Building Options:

- Community building that combines the VR Lee Building and the Fred Hess Kitchen into one building
 - 5,800 SF multi-purpose building that will support 150 to 200 people
 - Parking closer to the front door if possible
 - Incorporate process that engages the user groups
 - Design with look and feel appropriate for the city of Chehalis
 - Restrooms incorporated into the community building with inside and outside access - engage appropriate city departments regarding best location and layout for outside access
 - Field House – utilize current building as is with limited improvements to storage area
 - Maintain historical context of existing buildings and incorporate into the new building in some fashion
 - Maintain existing names of the buildings

November 30, 2015

Drainage:

- Highest priority
- Off-site drainage on Parkland Drive and Pacific Avenue
- Other components to facilitate on-site drainage

Frontage Improvements:

- On-site parking, new parking lot next to Penny Playground
- Off-site parking - does not include improvements on Pacific Avenue, or the Triangle area across from the aquatics center (may consider in a later phase)
- Add connector road/loop from Pacific Avenue to Williams Avenue - Preliminary design to include parking along road (make decision on adding parking once costs are known)

Other Park Features:

- Indoor/outdoor event space
- Picnic shelters
- Lighting
- Explore security cameras to address safety and security
- Enhance pedestrian access/circulation around the park - consider mile markers, or signage to identify lengths of trails around and through the park

Phasing:

- Drainage
- Playground/parking
- Design connector road as shown on recommended concept from Pacific Avenue to Williams Avenue (Parking can be part of Phase 2 to accommodate construction costs)
- Williams Avenue – include divider island to protect parking area
- Crosswalks with flashing beacons at the corner of Williams Avenue and 13th Street, and in front of the aquatics center
- Community Building with additional parking

Stan Hedwall Park Evaluation:

- Do feasibility study and cost benefit analysis for relocating ballfields to Stan Hedwall Park

Mr. Skillings stated if funding is not available to do all of the improvements at once, they'll need to look at the sequencing of what will be done first. He suggested the first item should be to fix the drainage. For public visibility, he recommended Penny Playground second and the community building third, which almost has to be done in consort with the parking.

Mayor Dawes stated, for practical reasons, they need to start with the drainage first. He suggested, to bring the rest of the project in, they'll need to determine what the biggest anchor will be the Community Building or Penny Playground.

Mr. Skillings agreed, noting those are things they'll need to talk about.

Councilor Pope stated he wanted the council to have a clear understanding for when they go out to the public to support it, which is, they agree that Phase 1 will include: drainage, Penny Playground, the VR Lee /Fred Hess Kitchen building replacement, and some aspect of parking next to Penny Playground.

There being no further business to come before the council, the work session adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

November 30, 2015

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 30, 2015.