

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **Regular Meeting – May 14, 2024**

Meeting Location: Fire Dept Training Room.

### **Roll Call**

Board Members Present: William Findlay  
Lilly Grisafi  
Gary Schroen  
Nancy Strippel  
Lisa Whalin  
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez  
Kyle Gardner  
Abe Herman  
Austin Solko

Guests Present Greg White – DTJ  
James Palmer - DTJ

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

### **Whitman Park Design Concepts**

Staff from DTJ Designs talked with the Board about the process for gathering feedback about amenities desired at Whitman Park. The engagement from the community was very high, the largest they have had on any of their projects. There were 940 respondents to the survey including 300 pages of data in response to the open-ended questions. Most respondents live and work in Grand Junction and visit downtown once per week. Safety and lighting were top priorities, food and beverage options were supported. At the time of the survey, renaming was not supported (about 75% said no). The top ten improvements were: lighting, pollinator garden, food trucks/carts or a food stand, shade canopies, multi-use event stage, seating, holiday gathering/lights, synthetic seasonal ice rink, recreational/bouldering space, and iconic public art.

People provided input on what measures help provide a safe park as well as what cultural considerations should be included in future park design. From all of this feedback, DTJ has created three concepts. The first honors the original including the x-shaped sidewalks converging on the center of the park. The second honors the geology and unique features of the area (Bookcliffs, Grand Mesa, Colorado National Monument, and rivers) and the third honors the downtown legacy and seeks to expand the feel of downtown to the park. All of the designs generally include the same top ten amenities in different configurations.

In general, Board members most appreciated the third concept noting that the historical option has old patterns associated with it and the geology concept has been done a number of places. Board members like the idea of the synthetic ice rink and the fire pit, as well as the dog park. There really is nothing like that downtown.

The consultants will continue to gather input incorporating feedback given by Council and at the public meeting this evening to create one design that includes the best parts of the three concepts.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Little  
Administrative Specialist