

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
Workshop for Disc Golf at Makarenko Park
August 18, 2021

Mayor Kyle Pauley presiding.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Candice Makos, Stana Cummings, Debbi Moran, Miles Wenzel, and Jim Ancich.

STAFF PRESENT

City Administrator Darrin Raines, Attorney Steve Johnson, Public Works Superintendent Jeff Nations, Police Chief Casey Stratton, and Finance Director Julie Pope

Mayor Pauley stated that we have received some comments from citizens with some concerns. He stated the idea was presented to the City in June by the Disc Golf Players Club. The 1st of July he and Administrator Raines did a walk through of the park with the club. On August 17th, Councilmembers Cummings and Wenzel, Public Works Superintendent Jeff Nations, Mayor Pauley and Administrator Raines walked through the park again.

Public comments received were regarding brush clearing, additional traffic in the area, organized events would bring too many people to the park and adding additional features would go against the original will. Councilmember Cummings stated she had received comments about disrupting the wildlife in the park.

Mayor Pauley stated the original will stated that no conifers would not be cutting and would be kept clean of garbage. It states the park is to be a pleasant use of the residents of the community. Mayor Pauley states that will align with the last will and testament that granted us this land.

Carl Sperring stated that he thinks this is a great use of the park. He supports it 110%.

Ken Cummings asked if community is defined as the citizens of Cosmopolis. Mayor Pauley stated that is up to interpretation. Mr. Cummings believes that this park was donated to the Citizens of Cosmopolis. He has some concerns regarding the disc golf and traffic. He lives in the area and the road going to the park is technically a one lane road. People pulling out of the park do not stop even though they are pulling onto a road. The amount of parking is limited.

Mayor Pauley stated that this would be a City installation as an added amenity. Mr. Cummings asked where the funds are going to be generated for ongoing maintenance of this. The Disc Golf Club has raised funds for the installation. Maintenance and clearing would fall under the general fund. Mr. Cummings asked where the liabilities lie if something were to happen. Mayor Pauley stated that it would fall on the City.

Councilmember Makos asked how many other disc golf courses there are. Mayor Pauley stated that Sam Benn Park is the only location in the area. There are approximately 180 disc golf courses in the State. Attorney Johnson stated that there is one located in Elma.

Citizen Jeremy Winn stated that he opposes this idea. He used to live adjacent to Sam Benn Park. To walk in the park you will find yourself in the park of the disc golf players. It is hard to have a leisurely park in the walk. Makarenko Park is a very natural space and should be enjoyed as it is.

Councilmember Makos asked if the college would be able to put in the disc golf course. Mayor Pauley stated that Makarenko looks amenable because of its natural settings. Sam Benn Park is too open. As far as the college, he stated that do not have space available.

Ray Robinson, 900 block Stanford, stated that parking is a big problem. When there are track meets, people park along the side of the street and speed.

Attorney Steve Johnson stated that there is an RCW that grants private and public landowners immunity as long as you don't charge to use any recreational facility. As long as there is no charge, there would not be much of a liability.

Councilmember Ancich stated that he understands the concerns of the citizens near the park. He asked if there would be a contract with the disc golf club that would be renewed yearly. Mayor Pauley stated that it would be a City installation. The only time a contract would come into play is if there was an event. He thinks it would be good to have a small pilot program to see how it works.

Ken Cummings would like to see another meeting happen before it is installed. He would like to know where the rest of the funds are coming from and the costs. Mayor Pauley stated that the initial installations would be paid for by the group. We could get parks grants to help pay for costs.

Mayor Pauley adjourned the meeting.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor