

**MINUTES OF A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL,
2101 ST. MICHELLE**

MAY 24, 2011

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene met in a continued session at Woodland Middle School, 2101 St. Michelle, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on May 24, 2011, there being present upon roll call the following members:

Sandi Bloem, Mayor
A. J. "Al" Hassell, III, Councilman
Loren Ron Edinger, Councilman
John Bruning, Councilman
Deanna Goodlander, Councilman
Woody McEvers, Councilman
Mike Kennedy, Councilman

STAFF PRESENT:

Wendy Gabriel, City Administrator
Amy Ferguson, Deputy City Clerk
Doug Eastwood, Parks Director
Mike Gridley, City Attorney
Steve Anthony, Recreation Director

MCEUEN STEERING COMMITTEE:

LaDonna Beaumont
Scott Cranston
Jim Elder
Sandy Emerson
Tina Johnson
Peter Luttrupp
Lynn Morris
Ron Ouren
Dave Patzer
John Barlow
Dennis Spencer

TEAM MCEUEN:

Dick Stauffer
Monte Miller
Phil Boyd
Dell Hatch

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bloem called the meeting to order.

McEUEN PARK MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION:

Doug Eastwood, Parks Director, noted that McEuen Park has been on the radar screen since 1997, or nearly 14 years when the city first formed its urban renewal agency. Over

the past 14 months, they have brought this idea forward. The Design Team and the McEuen team adopted the seven Community Values. They wanted McEuen Park to have the greatest number of uses for the greatest number of people. This project is not unlike other enhancements to the quality of life in our community. Other community projects mentioned were the North Idaho Centennial Trail. It was not met without concern by the citizens. In 1995, Mr. Eastwood said that a board of visionaries introduced the idea of a new public library in the city. That vision was not entirely embraced. In September of 2007 the city of Coeur d'Alene opened its library. There was also discussion regarding a community center facility idea for 20 plus years. When an opportunity came to apply for a grant for the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center, it was opposed. The idea was also not embraced by everyone. Mr. Eastwood asked the audience to imagine what our community and quality of life would be like to today if we did not have the North Idaho Centennial Trail, Coeur d'Alene Public Library, or Kroc Center.

Mr. Eastwood said that the McEuen Master Plan embraces the opportunity for a larger number of people to access the waterfront area. The benefits are endless. Outdoor recreation opportunities increase by many fold and include other benefits that often go unmentioned, including social benefits, health benefits, and economic benefits that the parks provide to the community. The master plan is a vision of a place making park and is the result of many months of work.

Mr. Eastwood further noted that the value of the Coeur d'Alene parks system is estimated to be well over \$200 million. The acquisition and development of the Coeur d'Alene parks system did not come from the general fund or at the expense of the taxpayer. They were able to acquire and build the parks system because we have a huge number of "can do" people in the system and a great many volunteers who serve on committees, in addition to donations of land, cash, and materials by service clubs and special interest groups, grants, businesses and individuals.

Mr. Eastwood said that great parks make great communities. The parks system contributes significantly to the healthy quality of life and economy in our community.

LaDonna Beaumont, McEuen Steering Committee representative, noted that the steering committee members are not citizens with more to gain than other citizens. They are not paid, and are not chosen based upon expectations of compliance from designers or politicians. Not all of the members were aware of the potential for controversy on this project. The comments have sharpened their focus and reminded them that the job they are assigned is important.

Ms. Beaumont discussed the role of the Steering Committee and the stakeholders it represents, which include the City of Coeur d'Alene Mayor, City Council, Administration, Parks, Recreation, Planning and Engineering Departments, the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Coeur d'Alene Parks Foundation, North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation, Tubbs Hill Foundation, Coeur d'Alene Library, Citizen/Local Neighborhoods Representative, Downtown Business Association, American Legion Baseball, ADA Accessibility/Playgrounds representative, Coeur d'Alene Resort,

Citizen/Theater and Entertainment Representative, City Parking Commission/LCDC, and the Boating/Waterways Community. The stakeholders represent the citizens of Coeur d'Alene.

The purpose of the Steering Committee was to guide the creation of a McEuen Park Master Plan that establishes an overall community vision for McEuen Park in order to allow the park to develop in an orderly manner, over time, as funding permits. The committee came together early 2010 to chose a design team. Team McEuen was chosen because they are the best. After the selection, they began to guide the design process.

The process has been long and sometimes difficult. The current Master Plan is very different than the first version. The Steering Committee recommends that the Council adopt the McEuen Master Plan Vision as presented.

Dick Stauffer, Team McEuen, noted that McEuen Park is a critical piece of real estate. This highly valuable public asset should offer the greatest access to the widest cross section of Coeur d'Alene residents and visitors. Some issues that were discussed were (1) improve visual and pedestrian linkages, (2) capitalize on the waterfront, (3) reduce the amount of surface parking on McEuen Field, (4) provide for festivals, events, and markets and other community activities, and (5) incorporate art, including performance into the planning and design.

Mr. Stauffer noted that there have been 14 separate studies since 1997 that have referenced McEuen Park. He discussed some of the Master Plan changes and refinements and listed the activities that you could do in the park. Mr. Stauffer also noted the community values which emanated from the original Walker Macy study and were expanded and enhanced by the Committee of Nine and endorsed by the City Council in 2002. He also discussed the survey results and noted that people are generally in favor of the amenities.

Mr. Stauffer next discussed the various amenities to the park, including Front Avenue parking improvements, Front Avenue improvements and promenade, Freedom Fountain, Front Avenue, Sherman & 3rd Street, seawall and steps, grand plaza and waterfront promenade, Centennial Trail, Veterans Memorial, child play area, trailhead/accessible trail, east parking lots, main pavilion, basketball courts, tennis courts, dog park, bocce ball court, skate park, splash pad, sledding hill, ice skating, amphitheater/green space, marina expansion, relocated boat launch, and a regional baseball stadium on 15th Street with all weather turf, taking advantage of amenities already in place.

Mr. Stauffer discussed the cost summary and estimates and noted that Team McEuen is confident in their accuracy.

Scott Cranston noted that is a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission and also a member of the McEuen Steering Committee. Conceptual development of the Parks Master Plan began almost a year ago. He expressed appreciation for the commitment and sacrifice of the Steering Committee and many others who enabled this process to move

forward. This community is passionate about its parks and public spaces. Mr. Cranston said that the McEuen Park design process and decision making were guided by the adopted 7 community values and the McEuen mission statement. Relocating the boat launch and ball fields were necessary to best meet the community values and mission statement. The Coeur d'Alene downtown is going to continue to grow and develop and with it will come greater commercial and residential density, and vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Now is the time to develop plans for long term facilities with better access and sustainability. In 10 years alternative site opportunities may no longer be available.

The Front Avenue redevelopment and parking concept addresses downtown parking needs and adds 5 acres of parking space. The design creates a greater number of opportunities for a greater number of citizens of all ages. McEuen Park will not happen overnight but adopting this master plan vision will allow the next steps to take place. Mr. Cranston noted that some of our best public spaces evolve over time. The Coeur d'Alene Parks & Recreation Commission has given McEuen park master plan its unanimous endorsement with the understanding that the 7 community values will continue to guide the process, including replacing facilities with equal or better. The Steering Committee recommends that the council adopt the McEuen Master Plan as presented.

Councilman Edinger read a statement that he prepared to the council and general public. He disagrees with the proposed plan but has great respect for the members of Team McEuen and city staff that have spent many hours on the development of the proposal and expressed his thanks to the mayor and council as a body. Councilman Edinger asked if we are here tonight to listen to the interests of both sides of the public, or has this council already made their decision and brought the public here to pacify them. He would expect that this council would still be open to the opinions and voices of those who are in opposition. Some of their concerns are also his.

Councilman Edinger said at the presentation at the Senior Center nothing was mentioned about Tubbs Hill and then within a short time it became part of the design. Tubbs Hill is one of the jewels of this great city. The Tubbs Hill Foundation has worked endless hours to preserve the hill in its natural state. There is no reason to scar Tubbs Hill and it should not be included within this plan.

The Third Street boat launch is the largest launch at the north end of the lake. It has many functions. Emergency medical personnel use it as a site for convenience. Families and avid fisherman enjoy it. This launch is bought and paid for. Who is going to pay for the new launch if it is developed along Lake Coeur d'Alene Drive. The new proposed launch is not equal or better. Where are the studies for the new proposed launch site? Councilman Edinger is in total opposition to the removal of the Third Street boat launch.

In regard to the Legion Baseball Field, Councilman Edinger said that the city has pledged, even in the last city election, that this baseball field would not be moved unless there was a location that was designed as equal or better. He personally does not feel that moving the ball field to a temporary location is justified when all along our pledge was to produce a field of equal or better value. We should honor the pledge we have made to the

Legion program. The proposed new site is not an equal or better value compared to the location where it presently sits. We must recognize that tax dollars will be used to construct this project.

Councilman Edinger said that, unfortunately, we are not all privy to know where the money for this relocation is coming from. He needs more answers to the questions he has raised. He asked when did it become responsible governing to develop a project at this time with the shape our economy is in. This project will cost millions in tax dollars. He would like to see a plan that will not cost as much and that takes less time to develop, maintain and enjoy. We can develop a park that represents our citizens rather than a grandiose park used as an attraction. We have an opportunity at this time to provide and develop McEuen without stretching resources and at the same time maximizing its potential. Councilman Edinger said that he thinks it is important for everyone to know that he is very passionate about McEuen Field and Tubbs Hill. He noted that he is not against improvements at McEuen Field and is in favor of additions and improvements to McEuen east of the Legion ball field.

MAIN MOTION: Motion by Edinger, seconded by Kennedy, to remove Tubbs Hill from the proposed plan.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Kennedy said that this project has brought a tremendous amount of focus on Tubbs Hill as it relates to McEuen Park. He has found that there is a pretty important goal that has been agreed upon, and that is accessibility to Tubbs Hill for everyone. There is no intention to do blasting, paving, or permanently deface or scar Tubbs Hill in any scenario. He asked Councilman Edinger if he would amend his motion to take Tubbs Hill out of consideration for this McEuen Park planning process and send the topic of Tubbs Hill management and improvement back to the City Parks and Recreation department on a separate track from McEuen altogether. He would also like to include in the motion the following directive: That the Parks and Recreation Commission put a specific plan together regarding comprehensive Tubbs Hill management and improvement, including but not necessarily limited to: trail accessibility, public safety, connectivity to McEuen Park, downtown, and nearby neighborhoods, management of invasive species, forest health and restoration, maintenance and operations. Also, that the Parks and Recreation Commission include the input of citizens with disabilities and proponents of Tubbs Hill Foundation efforts, and report back to the City Council by the end of this calendar year 2011 with a comprehensive plan including specific dates for increased trail accessibility.

MOTION TO AMEND: Motion by Edinger, seconded by Kennedy, amending his motion to remove Tubbs Hill out of consideration for this McEuen Park planning process and send the topic of Tubbs Hill management and improvement back to the City Parks and Recreation department on a separate track from McEuen altogether, and directing that the Parks and Recreation Commission put a specific plan together regarding comprehensive Tubbs Hill management and improvement, including but not necessarily limited to: trail accessibility, public safety, connectivity to McEuen Park, downtown, and nearby neighborhoods, management of invasive species, forest health and restoration,

maintenance and operations. Also, that the Parks and Recreation Commission work together with the Tubbs Hill Foundation and persons with disabilities, and report back to the City Council by the end of this calendar year 2011 with a comprehensive plan including specific dates for increased trail accessibility.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Hassel noted that all structures and amenities on Tubbs Hill have already been taken out of the plan. Councilman Kennedy said that this process has been contentious but has brought the disabled and the Tubbs Hill Foundation together.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.

MOTION by Edinger that the Third Street boat launch be removed from the McEuen Plan. The motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION by Edinger that the Legion Baseball field be removed from the McEuen Plan. The motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION by Edinger that the citizens of Coeur d'Alene have the chance to make their voices heard with a vote on the November of 2011 election ballot with the intent to approve or disapprove the McEuen proposal. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Kennedy said that he was contacted by Robert Cliff who asked for a resolution to provide clarity for the funding of the park. He noted that a current council cannot bind a future council in terms of funding, but Councilman Kennedy asked the council to make a resolution or pledge that would apply to the current council in office as a way to codify the funding.

MOTION by Kennedy, seconded by Goodlander, that the council make a resolution to provide clarity for funding for McEuen Park which states that the current council cannot bind future councils in terms of funding. As a result this informal resolution/pledge would only apply to members here today for their terms in office. The resolution would state that the funding for McEuen Park come from the following sources: Urban renewal districts, grants, Parks Capital Improvement Fund, private donations, service clubs and community groups, in-kind contributions of services, general funds dedicated to park improvements, dedicating Parking funds, foundations, state, federal, county partnership potentials, city departments that would otherwise be involved in the project due to proximity to Front Avenue and other utilities (i.e., Streets, Wastewater, Stormwater, etc.), Arts Commission. Furthermore, expressly resolve that funding for McEuen Park will NOT come from: General Obligation Bonds requested by the city, new property taxes above and beyond those proportionately allocated for such parks and/or stated above, and new levies requested or increased for maintenance and construction of McEuen Park.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Kennedy said that the pledge can be made but it is not binding on a future council. Councilman Goodlander said that she appreciates the clarification. Mr. Gridley commented that he had no legal problem with the resolution, but it is not legally binding on any future council.

Motion carried.

MOTION by Hassell, seconded by Kennedy, that public comments be limited to 3 minutes per person. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Marlo Falkner 207 Park Drive, said that she is a 3rd generation native. Her family held leases on the Third Street docks. While growing up in this city, there was never any vision. She thinks it is time for a vision and time for a concept. It is time for the city council to make a stand. There is no performing arts center. This community has only responded to what the needs were. She urged the council to vote yes on the proposal.

Dolene Lind 2501 Sherman, said that McEuen Field has always been a place where families gather. She spoke in opposition to the McEuen Plan. The downtown does need parking and with LCDC money a parkade can be constructed downtown. LCDC tax money could be used for a shelter for the bus depot at Riverstone. We should honor Mae McEuen's memory. The bottom line is the public has the right to vote. Don't force us into a recall.

Patrick Moon, 1323 E. Sherman, thanked the council for standing up for people with disabilities. He loves the project because they thought about accessibility. If you keep the vision of accessibility for all and quality for all, there is no reason for these fights. There are a lot of good things here. He and the disability community are proud of the McEuen Plan. They want open spaces to be accessible as best as possible.

Virgil Edwards, 4451 Seltice Way, said that he works for the Disability Action Center. He applauded everyone who has been involved in this project. McEuen Field allows everyone to be with their families and friends. He supports the McEuen Plan, and believes there needs to be a voice for the homeless, disabled, elderly, and people who can use this facility. He believes McEuen Field will be very successful.

Charlotte Cheryl, 1308 Coeur d'Alene Avenue, said that society puts great importance on being entertained constantly. What happened to children's imaginations? Where is the need for a wading pool or fountain? Cool off at the beach. She suggested flooding a portion of McEuen in the winter for ice skating. She has always enjoyed the boat launch although they are not boaters. Silver Beach does not afford that same availability. Glitz and glamour can be found elsewhere. She asked the council to not approve the plan as is and take more time for citizen input and put it to an advisory public vote.

Sharon Culbreth, 206 Hubbard, thanked Councilman Edinger and said she thinks the citizens should be able to vote. The economy in Coeur d'Alene is still declining and foreclosures are up. There are 146 vacant commercial spaces just in the city of Coeur d'Alene. She asked how the council in good conscience could make the park such a priority during these economic times. The community is strongly asking for a vote.

Kathleen Sims, 206 Stoneington Court, said that she is a State Representative and represents District 4 and her constituents have been calling and emailing her about this project. She delivered a letter to the State Attorney General listing conflicts of interest that she finds on the City Council in dealing with this project. She believes a thorough investigation will be done by the Attorney General.

Casey Kaiser, 8635 E. Sunnyside Road, thanked Councilman Edinger for suggesting a public vote. She is tired of representatives from all aspects of government thinking that the public's opinion means nothing. It is time to listen. Council should be happy she doesn't live in the city. She is tired of council's attitude and arrogance.

Lorna Kay Carpenter, 902 E. Hastings, discussed the unemployment rate. She wants a public vote. No one has said how the project will be maintained.

Ron Daydon, 8281 N. Ramsey Road, Athol, said that he lived in Lake Tahoe and saw how overdevelopment can spoil a community. This Disneyland park isn't for us, it's for the high rollers who can entertain their out of town guests in high style.

Justin Druffel, 1101 E. lakeshore Drive, said he is very excited about the possibilities of McEuen Park. Great parks make great cities, and great cities have great parks. The current McEuen Park is not configured for the highest and best use for all citizens. He appreciates the council members' vision and hard work and hopes to be able to enjoy the new McEuen Park with his family.

Dorothy Hatch, 1507 S. Fairmont Loop, CDA, thanked the mayor and council for their service to the community. She applauded the McEuen Steering Committee for a job well done. She agrees that the park is in need of upgrades. Having a beautiful park with numerous amenities will draw many people to this area. Tourists spend money, benefiting the community. American Legion baseball can be played in another field. She agrees with moving the boat launch. This should be a park for the entire community with something for everyone. She looks forward to the day when this project is complete and Coeur d'Alene has another feather in its cap.

Jeff Connaway, 1523 N. 2nd Street, thanked the mayor and council for the opportunity to speak and thanked Team McEuen. He respects the quality of work. He said that many people in attendance think that by choosing to do away with the Third Street boat launch and ball fields that the city is heading in the wrong direction. He thinks most of the amenities can be included by keeping the boat launch and ball fields and using the current parking lot. He requested the city council vote to reject the current proposal to rebuild McEuen Field. He thinks the city council should conduct a survey and take an advisory vote.

James Filmore, 1215 E. Lakeshore Drive, said that he thinks the city should move forward with the plan. He asked for more parking at City Park, and thanked the council

for the vote removing Tubbs Hill from the plan. He asked for a special designation for Tubbs Hill as a nature park.

Jennifer Drake, 1419 E. Skyline Drive, said that she is a 4th generation Coeur d'Alene resident and wanted to reassure council members and the mayor that there is a very large portion of the community that strongly supports this plan. It isn't just about the people in this room – it is about the children who want to have something amazing. She wants to tell her daughter that she is growing up in a community that is forward thinking. Why are we satisfied with fine? We need to save McEuen from atrophy and underutilization. It is about aiming for greatness. Now more than ever we need to reinvest in this place that we all call home. It is the right thing to do for the future of this community.

Nathan Baker, 2699 Versaille, said that he is representing skateboarders and bike riders, and spoke in support of the proposed skate park.

Chase Turner, 1623 E. Mullan Avenue, spoke in support of the skatepark. He will help to raise money for the project.

Peter Riggs, 9961 N. Huetter Road, said that what this is about is his newly born son. As a new dad looking towards the future, he wants it for his son so that he can take him somewhere and have a place that he can really be proud of.

Bob MacDonald 1407 Silver Beach Road. spoke in support of the plan for his dog. Dog parks are great for the community. McEuen is a great opportunity for this community to do something special. He asked the council to represent the many people who support this plan.

Steve Ayles, 2925 E. Packsaddle Drive, said that he talked to two or three people who are upset because their names are listed in the newspaper ad in favor of the plan. He is against moving the boat launch. He couldn't find one instance where a child or anyone was hurt at the dock. We don't need extra green space or waterfront. Boat ramp is handicap accessible. He discussed his concern with the proposed new dock location.

Gary Johnson, 601 E. Front, spoke in support of the McEuen plan. It is the ideal time to think of the future for our children and the next generations. Nothing that is in the park now is being eliminated. Everything is being replaced with equal or better, guaranteed. This plan, if implemented, will provide jobs for the city, will bring in more visitors and pour money into the community. He asked for a vote in favor of this plan, and asked Councilman Edinger to have an open mind towards those who are in favor of the plan.

Douglas Stellman, 186 Chain Drive, said that the McEuen that we have is a treasure. He would ask to preserve the beauty of the green area. Orin Lee, the first NIC president and business owner, was tireless in advocating preserving this place. It is hard to build something as precious as God's creation.

Harry Amend, 4449 Greenchain Loop, said that he hopes as former school superintendent and one of the founding directors of the KROC center that when the issues are over, they can look at what is best for the community and we can move ahead. He hopes we can pull back together for the betterment of this city. Mr. Amend holds Councilman Edinger in the highest esteem and believes that we will have a ball field that the citizens will be proud of. He has worked with the mayor and city council on some tough issues but they have earned his trust. He will support their decision and will help to make it work.

Derek Ojay, 710 River Avenue said that he doesn't think its government's job to provide entertainment. It doesn't seem right. The time isn't right and we don't have the money. If council goes ahead with this plan, you may not have a job next year.

Rick Williams, 18th & Sherman, said that he is an avid boater and taking out the Third Street ramps is wrong, and not giving them the vote is wrong. It should be equal to or better, and the same value. He said he did not get correction information from the city council and has lost respect for Doug Eastwood for not being honest with him.

William Cushman, 3252 Needle Pines Ct., said that it is a beautiful idea but moving the Third Street launch would be disastrous.

Frank Orzell, 310 E. Garden, spoke in opposition to plan and costs involved. In his opinion the costs today would not support a decision to move forward. He could not get a consistent response as to how costs were developed. Costs are incomplete as they do not include post construction costs and repair and maintenance.

Julie Clark, 602 Tubbs Hill Drive, and Rebecca Priano, 2205 Stagecoach, Post Falls. discussed parking north of Sherman Avenue and proposed giving parking management to an Idaho company. Ms. Clark said that haste makes waste and encouraged a vote.

Terry Cooper, 125 W. Eaglecrest Drive, said that the Downtown Board of Directors sent out a letter supporting the concept of going forward to look at the design elements of McEuen field. He encouraged the council to go forward and look with caution at what can be done with McEuen. The Downtown has worked with the city for so long that they have trust that the council will do its best to lead us in the right direction.

Jean Felker, 915 Front Avenue, said she had concerns regarding equal to or better. She feels they get a chance to talk but the council doesn't really hear what they say. Who decides what is equal to or better? She thanked Councilman Edinger for his integrity. More and more isn't always better. McEuen Park is the citizens' park, the hometown park. She spoke in favor of a public vote. She thinks most people would like some changes but are is blown away by the scope of the plan.

Jeff Crensdorf, 2205 Stagecoach Drive, Post Falls, spoke in opposition to the McEuen plan. He feels there needs to be public input. The plan is not entirely backed by the

community. Mae McEuen would like some of the elements, but council needs to listen to the people.

Todd Christiansen, 105 N. 1st Street, spoke as President of the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber had a board member serve on the McEuen Steering Committee. He spoke in support of the McEuen Master Plan.

Tom McTevia, 4586 W. Princetown Lane, said that he is a member of the Coeur d'Alene Ped/Bike Committee. He read a letter from the committee chair in support of the McEuen plan. He spoke in support of an ADA accessible trail at the base of Tubbs Hill and would like to provide input as the plan progresses. He said that the idea of a park of this magnitude is a great thing and is in support of the plan. He also spoke in support of moving the Third Street boat ramps.

Mayor Bloem called for a break.

Rachel Reid, 803 E. Young, said she is the parent of 3 children under the age of 6. She loves Tubbs Hill the way it is. What is happening to citizens tonight is what is happening all over Idaho. She spoke in support of a vote for education reform and asked citizens to sign petitions for education reform tonight.

Dan Malcolm, 8643 N. Woodline Drive, Hayden, spoke in support of the McEuen plan. He expressed concern regarding accusations of conflicts of interest and connections. There was an election and our city council was put in place. He doesn't agree with everything, including the boat ramps, but thinks this is an investment in our future.

Ellen Connor, 6015 N. Valley Street, Dalton Gardens, said that she loves the concept, but as a banker, she believes they are not done with the foreclosures and doesn't think it will be over until 2013. Property values will continue to drop and the tax base will drop. How are we going to do \$30 million when more and more people are going to become homeless. It is going to get worse before it gets better. Many cities around the country are on the verge of going bankrupt. We have the fastest rising food prices in 32 years.

Mike Tedesco, 2805 N. 9th Street, said he is in favor of this plan. McEuen Park is very underutilized. He is attracted to the pedestrian-friendly aspects of the plan. He thought the bridge to the boardwalk was a unique aspect. The young folks are interested in an increased number of amenities.

Eileen Johnson, 11945 N. Stinson, Hayden, spoke in support of a vote. It is very important that we all have input. She thinks the plan is way too extensive for this time.

Keith Peila, 3537 Highland Drive, thinks of Coeur d'Alene as the "city by the lake." We have gotten off track. The Third Street boat ramp is the most used boat ramp in the state and northwest. It is a natural handicap access. Third Street is vital to the boating community and the businesses of Coeur d'Alene. He asked the council to table the plan

and take a better look at it, and thanked Councilman Edinger for being the only one who stands up for the voters.

Mary Ayers, 1307 Ash Avenue, hopes the boat ramp stays at Third Street and that there isn't a parking lot on Front. Councilman Kennedy confirmed that the Front Street closure is not a part of the plan.

Lynn Morris, 304 S. 11th Street, said she has lived in Coeur d'Alene for 37 years and lives 4 blocks from McEuen. She desires to have a park in place to be used by many in the community. She wants a place to take her grandchildren when they come visit. Currently McEuen is empty and barricaded by fences. She has often thought there is a better and higher use for this park. There isn't a lot of space available for many people to enjoy. She is a boater and believes that the community's options for boating should not be decreased. The master plan includes a wide variety of activities. She urged the council to accept the master plan and trusts the city will carefully evaluate each space as we move forward.

Gary Hirst, 801 Pine, said he had concerns about keeping the appearance of the neighborhoods as they are now and feels they spoke to that well. He asked the city council to keep that in mind as they move forward with the plan. Safety is a concern and the street is already busy with speeders. He also wants to make sure that lighting doesn't intrude on households in the adjacent neighborhood and wonders about decibel limits at the amphitheater and management of crowds, and the aesthetic appearance of structures next to neighborhoods. He asked for respect for the values of the neighborhood and quality of life.

Sandy Emerson, 2929 Lookout Drive, with offices at 408 Sherman, thanked the steering committee members. Discussed a ULI article that parks are a good investment and said that this plan provides a renovation and elimination of acres of asphalt. He said that Third Street is about the 4th most used launch in the county, and it isn't the busiest in the state any more. It is a barrier to waterfront users. The Silver Beach area is a preferred boat launch.

Tina Johnson, 601 Front, spoke in favor of adoption of the master plan. If the plan is adopted she personally pledges \$5,000 to a particular amenity, and 300 hours of volunteer work to bring it to fruition.

John Barlow, 3403 Fernan Hill Road, CDA said that he is a member of the steering advisory committee and it has been a great experience. There has great collaboration and interactions with staff. It is time to finalize the effort to improve McEuen. Fourteen years is long enough to study this process. He urged council approval.

Sharon (last name indiscernible and address not given) thanked Councilman Edinger for standing up tonight. She is getting somewhat disheartened and wonders why citizens of this town even bother coming up here to say anything. She gets the impression that the removal of the boat launch and the installation of the parking garage is a done deal.

Why weren't the people involved from the very beginning? Mayor Bloem and Councilman Kennedy should recuse themselves of any vote. There is the perception of a conflict of interest.

David Patzer, 2458 E. Nettleton Gulch, thanked mayor and council for their energy and time. We are at a crossroads and he urged council to have the courage to make a correction to ensure the next 50 to 100 years of utilization of this project.

Linda Wright, 1018 "B", said that the plan has tons of good things in it. We don't need a place making park, we just need a nice community park. Coeur d'Alene already is a destination city, we don't need a destination park. We do not wish to become a cookie-cutter community. She also asked for an advisory vote.

Rita Sims Snyder, 818 Front Avenue, spoke in opposition to the McEuen Plan. Why make such drastic changes when there has been no public outcry to make the changes. She recommended putting it to an advisory vote. She believes that the "blank slate" is where the vision became misdirected. McEuen could use improvement, but not to the extent that has been proposed. They love many parts of the plan but would love to see it scaled back.

Sharon Kerns, 510 N. 7th Street, is impressed with the McEuen Plan. She realizes that not everything suits everyone but for her she would use that park every day. It seems that there has been a lot of thought put into it and she supports the master plan.

Ron Ouren, 2823 Marcelle Drive, said that he moved to Coeur d'Alene in 1967 and there have been lots of changes in this community and a lot to be proud of. He was a member of the downtown association and discussed the revitalization of Sherman Avenue and is very proud of what they did. He is on the Steering Committee and very proud to be a member. He commended everyone for their dedication. Change is never easy and shouldn't be done without a lot of soul searching and a benefit to the majority of the people. He sees this park as an opportunity to integrate and interact with all age groups. We can jump start our own economy with this project and he encouraged council to vote for the plan.

Lynn Schwindell, 735 4th Street, has attended every meeting and watched everything on t.v. and keeps hearing that things will be replaced with equal or better. She has not heard how it's going to be paid for, and has not heard a promise or commitment that the boat launch or the ball fields would be replaced before anything is moved at McEuen Field. There is no money for the boat launch since it is outside of LCDC. She would like to have the council make a promise and commitment that those facilities would be replaced before anything is removed and ensure that there is equal or better. She does not feel that there has been enough public involvement. She urged council to table it and step back and reconsider it and put it out to an advisory public vote. Something should be left to the blue collar worker and something should be put down at the park that reflects the historical value of Coeur d'Alene.

Charlie Miller, 1283 N. Center Green Loop, said that he is the North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation manager. He discussed the initial fears over the Centennial Trail and how those fears never came to fruition. The North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation endorses the conceptual plan of McEuen Field.

Mary Smith, 4333 Deerfield, said she wonders what will be done if the funding doesn't come in. There is a big gap between people who don't make very much money and people who do. She thinks the middle class is being forgotten and that a second look needs to be taken. She would like to see it be done in increments over something like a 20 year plan. She encouraged a public vote.

Joe Morris, 304 S. 11th Street, commended the Steering Committee and council for the process. The greater the change the more push back you are going to get. He thinks that McEuen can become one of our community gems. You need to trust the process and take the next step.

Jerry Peterson, 2039 W. Normandy Lane, spoke in opposition to the plan.

Tom Cain, 745 N. Third, thinks it is okay to do something with McEuen. He spoke in opposition to the McEuen Plan and in support of an advisory vote.

Jack Riggs, 801 S. 11th, said we have a republic, representative form of government. Council is elected to represent us. He believes it is the council's responsibility to vote on this project.

William Green, 2803 N. 5th Street, encouraged the council to consider values and find balance between maintaining the legacy of a neighborhood feel with the need for further development. They are both important. He spoke in support of council voting on whether to have a vote.

Randy Reese, 32651 Hayden Drive, Spirit Lake, asked council to please make everything they approve accessible.

Mary Souza, 4153 Fairway Drive, suggested a resolution that whatever the final plan is, council will put it to a public advisory vote on the city election on November 8th.

Public Comment was closed.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Edinger said that the majority of the comments made have been about the baseball field and the boat launch. We have a baseball field and a boat launch right now. Who is going to pay for the new ones? In regard to the safety issue and the Third Street launch, there is just as much a safety issue at Silver Beach as at Third Street. He has had an opportunity over the last 3 to 4 weeks to read the survey that Team McEuen did and also read the survey that Friends of McEuen has done. There is a difference. The difference is that Team McEuen shows this great plan where Friends of

McEuen says do you want the Third Street boat launch gone, the baseball fields gone, do you want to screw around with Tubbs Hill?

MOTION by Edinger to take the baseball field and the boat launch out of the plan that is proposed. Motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION by Edinger for an advisory vote on the plan that council accepts at the November election. Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Edinger commented that he has been on council a number of years and has to make a lot of tough decisions. He believes that this is a big decision and a big change for downtown Coeur d'Alene and the community. He questioned what is wrong with having an advisory vote.

Councilman Kennedy said they did have a full hearing in the General Services Committee with citizens about a public vote. This is not the first time that they have talked about this voting issue.

MAIN MOTION by Goodlander, seconded by Bruning, to adopt the conceptual McEuen Master Plan with conditions, that the plan shall recognize the value of public-owned space and encourage improvement in accessibility by the citizens, that the plan promote and enhance open space, that the plan encourage greater user of downtown public space for the community, that the plan shall recognize the value of vistas and views, and explore the possibilities in creating a community gathering place, that the plan link the downtown to the waterfront, and that the plan shall ensure the replacement of any displaced facilities with equal or better facilities.

MOTION TO AMEND by Goodlander, seconded by Bruning, to amend the motion to ensure that equal or better is in place before shutting down.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Goodlander said that her father (Orin Lee) would say you have to move on. There are 2,000 people a day at the City Park and you need to spread the use. We can't expect city park to take care of all their people. It is their responsibility to look to the future and she believes that the plan does that. It is important that they replace the facilities. You need to be open to changes. It is their job to make this decision.

Councilman Kennedy said this topic has had more public input than any other he has seen. He doesn't know what the right thing to do is, but has heard from more people pro and con than any other. He is living the American dream in Coeur d'Alene Idaho. In 20 years he has seen a tremendous amount of change. He didn't run for this office to do the easy thing. He believes that tonight the easiest thing for him to do would be to offer up an advisory vote or vote no on the plan. He does not believe it would be the right thing to do. If he votes yes on this and it causes people to vote against him for that, that is democracy and he welcomes it. He isn't doing this for politics. The younger generation of Coeur d'Alene have said to him that they don't go downtown because the park doesn't

do anything for them. The bottom line is that it is a tough vote and tough issue. He will vote in favor of the plan. It is a roadmap and it will be changed more than once.

Councilman Hassel said he thinks it is necessary for them to make a decision. McEuen will move forward and will be funded piece by piece. The LCDC is only one possible source of funding. You have to have a roadmap or nothing will happen. He will vote for the plan.

Councilman Bruning said that change is not easy – it is always difficult, and scary. Change gets us out of our comfort zone and the natural reaction is to pull back. The Steering Committee did not make these decisions lightly. He would argue that it is the right time to do it. The council has debated it for 14 years – when is the right time? He talked about his perceived conflict of interest because he served on the Steering Committee and noted that a conflict of interest has to do with monetary gain and he has nothing at all to gain from this. He will vote in favor of the plan.

Councilman McEvers said that government doesn't stop because times are hard. He doesn't see it happening all at once, and people will come together. He used the Kroc Center and Playland Pier as examples of people coming together. He said he looks at history for answers. It is about the future and the kids who will be here long after us. He thinks right now it is as good as we can do. Nothing will probably change for awhile but the motivation will start. He will support the plan. He is trying to make the right decisions based on who he is and who the citizens elected. He will do the best job he can for the citizens and for the future.

Councilman Edinger said he has never considered himself a political man. He has never voted on anything to be a political animal one way or the other. He votes how he thinks the majority of the people of Coeur d'Alene want and what he thinks is best for the citizens of Coeur d'Alene. He has never voted on any issue for political gain and will never do that. He has a clear conscience.

Councilman Kennedy called for the Question. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED: Edinger, Nay; Hassell, Aye; Goodlander, Aye; McEvers, Aye; Kennedy, Aye; Bruning, Aye.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Hassell that, there being no further business, this meeting is adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Sandi Bloem, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy Ferguson, Deputy City Clerk