



Legislation Text

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*Department of Parks and Recreation*

Reference: Review of Master Plan for Downtown Plaza Park

**To:** Mayor Richard N. McLean and Members of City Council

**Through:** Clint Blackhurst, Acting City Manager

Chontel Trujillo, Assistant City Manager Operations

**Prepared By:** Gary Wardle, Director Parks and Recreation

**Date Prepared:** August 14, 2017

**PURPOSE**

Review of the proposed Master Plan for the Construction of the Downtown Plaza Park.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2016 the City purchase 0.13 Acres of land on the Southwest corner of Main and Bridge to construct a Downtown Plaza Park. The property was purchase with Park and Recreation Capital funds.

Staff is currently investigating the methods and cost to demolish the building on the property. The existing building has a common wall with the bank and portions of the south basement wall will need to remain and be stabilized as part of the demolition. Terracon Engineering is completing the final plans for the demolition. These plans will be brought back to City Council for review and funding of the demolition.

There have been two public meeting held to solicit input from the community concerning the Master Plan for the Park. During the first public meeting many options were considered, from developing a parking lot for downtown to creating a public event space. At the first meeting few attendees supported the parking lot idea. Most felt there was adequate parking downtown. The Master Plan does suggest turning First Avenue into a one-way going south. This will allow additional head-in parking along 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. The City has hired a firm to complete a parking study for Downtown. This plan may be modified if needed.

The Current Master plan includes a public event space with xeric plantings, raised planters, seat walls, seating tables, art displays, public restroom, a splash pad and an ice-skating rink for the winter. Attached is the proposed Master Plan for the Downtown Plaza Park. The estimated cost of the Downtown Plaza Park is \$2,124,063. This does not include the demolition cost. Funding has not been identified for the Downtown Plaza Park Project at this time.

The development of a Downtown Plaza will require the identification for funding of additional maintenance. Currently the Park staff spends between 40 and 50 hour per week during the summer maintaining downtown. This includes watering of flower baskets, weeding of planting beds, trash removal and sweeping of sidewalks. The completion of the Strong Parking lot and sculpture has increased the maintenance. The Park maintenance and cemetery staff also provides snow removal during the winter. The development of the Downtown Plaza Park will require an additional 40 hours per week for maintenance. This will be a year-round requirement. Funding for the additional maintenance will need to be identified

prior to the construction of the new park.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has reviewed the proposed Master Plan on August 2, 2018. They are recommending the master plan to the City Council for approval by a vote of 6-2. The two do not support the construction of a park at this location.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Funding for the project has not been identified. Staff is identifying grant that will be appropriate for this project.

**OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

Approve the Master Plan

Refer Master Plan back to staff for additional review.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Master Plan
2. Cost Estimate