

Downtown Central Park Public Meeting July 23, 2009

Mayor John Marchione opened with meeting with a summary of how the downtown central park idea came about to create a great public space in downtown, as well as, stimulate economic growth.

Parks Director Craig Larsen gave a brief history indicating that since 1997 the Parks and Recreation Department has been examining the need and place for a park in the downtown.

Guy Michaelsen from The Berger Partnership, a landscape architecture firm, presented the site selection process and a conceptual vision for what the downtown park could be.

Comments from the audience followed:

- The park is a great idea and would be used by those people living in the downtown now and in the future.
- Try and preserve the “Old Town” center of Redmond.
- Urban parks are great amenities.
- There are great connections to the trail system through town and the regional trails.
- It is close to the Transit Center.
- The parking issue needs to be addressed. (several comments concerned parking)
- Special Events may make the park too crowded with parking an issue.
- Special Events could be scaled appropriately to the park.
- Maintenance cost will need to be considered and covered if a new park is built.
- The cost seems too high in today’s economy. .
- There was concern from business owners who own property in the preferred site.

A straw vote indicated a strong support for the plan.