

## PARKS MEETING NOTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 7, 2022, 1 PM

### GARDEN CLUB

This meeting is so Parks, and everyone, can see Curt Miller's drawings of Maple Street Park which will be used for an upcoming RCO grant. The park layout will follow the people's request during the survey in November of 2021, which was prepared by an advisory committee of people in the neighborhood and two Parks Commissioners. The major items requested were for open space, some benches, trees, and a small children's play area. Curt has been working on this for several weeks now and is ready to show us how it will look.

*The meeting was called to order by Ollie Iversen at 1 pm with all Parks Commissioners present, Ken Lee, Martin Howard, Mike Bucy, Marty Pease with Ramus, and Ollie Iversen for a quorum. Scott Thomas, Town Administrator, Michael Davolio, Town Planner and Mary Wohleb, Town Councilperson were also there from Town. Our guests were Curt Miller, Landscape Designer, and speaker, along with interested Town citizens, Marilyn Thostenson, Linda Talman, Susan Macek, Dave Buchan, and Ken Stern of La Conner Weekly News.*

*After Ollie read the opening statement above, Curt Miller took the floor and showing his proposed drawings of the planned park on Maple Street. Its size is 120' x 200' or 24,000 square feet or almost one half acre and the drawings will be used for the RCO grant proposal beginning early next month. Curt took us through the plan for the entry off Maple and the four parallel parking spots on Talbott along with one ADA parking spot connecting to the paved path around the small children's play area. He said there will be an ADA picnic table available just off the pathway. The entry area on Maple will have a built in, parallel to Maple, barrier/bench seating area on both sides of the stairs needed to get to the park level. This would prevent kids from running straight into Maple Street with a lovely area to sit. Landed Gentry, the adjoining home builder, will put a fence between the houses and the park, which will have vegetation planted by Town on the park side to soften the transition. When the trees are mature, they will block some portion of the view of the buildings from the park. It was suggested that there be a gate between the houses and the park. This should be discussed with the builder for his preferences. No decision at this time. It was noted that there is a local arborist who should be contacted for the best local trees and vegetation, and of course, an arborist will be retained. It was also noted the trees and vegetation must be bird friendly. Because of the plantings, irrigation was brought up several times and this too will be looked into. There will be a drinking fountain on site, and it will be at three levels, regular height, ADA height with a lower dog watering basin. Curt went through the children's play area, saying it would have a safe wood product on the ground with significant drainage. There will be two kids climbing structures, each with 6 foot buffer zones around them for safety. The paved path around the play area would become an easy, safe place for kids to ride their scooters or trikes or to be pushed along by mothers and fathers. The open space to the east was Curt's next subject, and said it will be an open green area, with some trees, vegetation, several picnic tables with open views to the hills and mountains across the farmland. As the park is lower than street level, Curt has designed a swale which runs around the grassy area, which is a depression that will capture water and drain it to the vegetation, which will keep the grassy areas dry. At this point Curt proposed his last idea, a synthetic canvas like fabric cover raised*

*above the play area which would offer some shade, yet be whimsical/art like, which will remind everyone that La Conner is a town of people who love art. As the questions stopped, I asked Parks their thoughts, and all five gave their solid support of the park plan.*

*The special meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.*

*Ollie Iversen  
Parks Commission*