

APRC Regular Meeting – October 14, 2020  
Public Input  
Item VI. Calle Season Extension

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:20 PM  
**To:** Parks Information <[parksinfo@ashland.or.us](mailto:parksinfo@ashland.or.us)>  
**Subject:** Lithia Artisans Market & Lithia Park's Front Lawn

#### **Lithia Artisans Market and the Front Lawn of Lithia Park**

##### *The Front Lawn of Lithia Park*

On New Years Day, 1997, Ashland Creek ravaged its flood plain. As Lithia Arts Guild chair, I attended innumerable meetings; joining the Community's effort in developing the *Calle Guanajuato Master Plan*. The Front Lawn had been completely inundated by the flood. Deep silt buried the former lawn and remained, mostly undisturbed, throughout the winter. When spring brought inquiries regarding the replanting of grass, Parks Director Ken Mickelson explained that timing and preparation was crucial: The Lithia Park Front Lawn is planted like a football field. Amending the soil and sowing the seed was carefully calculated. The result has given us an incredibly durable surface, that is designed to thrive despite rigorous use.

My wholehearted involvement in the development of the Calle Guanajuato Master Plan, provided me with a revealing insight into the depth of planning and care, that supports the celebrated beauty of Lithia Park. The experience engendered in me a familiarity that has translated into a sense of protective guardianship. Thus I was inspired to closely observe the Market's impact on the Front Lawn. In this observation, I was frankly surprised. There is now more grass in the area I have occupied, through the summer and into the fall, than there was on the day I arrived! Bare spots that were once under foot, are now covered in grass. The sum of our experience has shown us that Lithia Artisans Market does not compromise the vitality of Lithia Park's Front Lawn.

##### *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)*

The Covid Pandemic has challenged the Community to make unprecedented changes, recasting the world around us. Not long after the Lithia Artisans Market moved onto the grass of Lithia Park we learned that our presence was a welcome relief for the Ashland Police Department. Conversations with Officers Billings and Carpenter introduced us to the concept of *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*. Apparently the Market was changing the social environment of the Park in a positive way. Their patrols were becoming uneventful! Problems with dogs, loitering, emotional outbursts, alcohol and drugs have been noticeably minimized! It seems the Artisans Market is a player in Ashland's crime prevention strategy.

##### *Community*

Long time visitors and residents alike have been pleasantly surprised by our presence in the Park. Professional musicians have added to the ambiance of a sunny afternoon. There are games, discussions, group meditations, naps in the sun: The Community is at home. Welcome to the paradigm shift.

Sincerely,  
James Royce Young  
LAMA senior member