

From: Helmut <helmut@ashlandcreek.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public testimony

My wife and I lauding your consideration for installation of the memorial for Taliesin in the park!

Sent from my iPad

From: Andy Stallman <astallman@ashlandhome.net>
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2023 10:26 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for Weds. Jan 11, 2023 RE: Namkai-Meche Memorial

Dear Parks Commissioners

As a former Chair of the Public Arts Commission, I'm very familiar with the policies surrounding memorials in parks. The proposal to honor Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche with a memorial in Lithia Park is SO RIGHT ON TRACK! I whole heartedly endorse this memorial and sincerely hope all of you will do the same. Everything about this is powerfully positive. Bravo!
Andy Stallman

From: Ellie Read <ellieread1007@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2023 12:07 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony

I just read the article on the proposed memorial in honor of Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche. I didn't know him personally but have seen his mother around town for years. I think this idea is wonderful, especially in today's world where there is so much hate and division. What a great way to honor his life and his last incredible deed to humankind and what a great reminder it would be to come across this bench with those beautiful last words inscribed. We all need something like this in our lives right now. I vote "Yes!"

Ellie Read
Ashland, Oregon

From: bandgfam@jeffnet.org <bandgfam@jeffnet.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:59 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: FW: Public Testimony

Dear APRC,

Thank you for your extensive work on the new East Main Property park. It looks to be a wonderful community asset.

We are members of the Ashland Creek Community Garden and are so happy to garden there. Our manager, Carol Carlson, has terrific insights and skills in gardening. Her suggestions should be taken seriously, among them: making the gates accessible for gardeners with heavy loads; having the compost area easy to get to and to dump garden refuse. I think the suggestion that trees be moved away from the south exposure is imperative since shade is one of our worst enemies (there are some plots at Ashland Creek that experience significant shade from neighboring homes and that makes for gardening problems).

Is there room for a greenhouse in the new space? I strongly suggest adding this feature into the general plans. Here in the Rogue Valley, starting seeds is also imperative—to save money, to get a head start on the gardening season, and to baby certain plants that need more time before planting out into the vagaries of the season.

Thank you for considering all of Carol's suggestions. They are solid, proven, and reflect a master gardener's views in order to make the new park a success.

Sincerely,
Barbara Schack
516 Herbert Street
Ashland, OR 97520

EAST MAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN PLAN, Carol Carlson Comments

These suggestions and questions come out of my 20 years of experience at Ashland Creek garden. I use “we” as if I am one of the new gardeners at East Main.

1. Pasture has star thistle, runner grass and blackberries. If these are not removed prior to opening the garden, gardeners will need education and help on how to eradicate these persistent weeds. It could take 1-2 years and might be a problem for years.

A successful Community Garden would ideally begin with good garden soil, free of any weeds/plants, with a balanced PH. Each gardener will add amendments, fertilizers, etc. but starting with basic good garden soil is essential.

Scraping the site would be necessary to level it for paths. If the scraper is small and done on a dry day, this should not compact the ground. It looks like the soil is sandy loam which is more resistant to compaction. So I suggest we scrape the top level of weeds off, maybe pile the soil elsewhere to compost.

Ideally, a load of compost would be brought in to top off plots.

2. Frost-free winter Spigot - Spring can be frozen AND dry. We need to be able to water Spring crops. 1 or even better 2 winter spigots at different sides of the garden.

3. Electricity - an outlet near garden shed would be very useful so we can do our own maintenance work (like sanding and re-staining picnic tables.)

4. Parking - Is there space for more parking? 4 spots better than 3. Potlucks and work parties bring in many cars for unloading.

5. Move location of trees in plan from south side to north. We need the south sun. Trees will grow up to shade plots. Suggest you put pollinator buffer shrubs on the south side, or short trees, or both.

6. Compost bins as well as Green Debris Bin?. 5 compost bins would fit in a 15' space.