



**City of Spokane Park Board
Joint Arts Committee Meeting
3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020
WebEx virtual meeting**

Joint Arts Committee Members

- X Garret Daggett, Arts Commission (Left: 4:07 p.m.)
- Ginger Ewing, Arts Commission
- X Jim Kolva, Arts Commission (alternate)
- X Andrew Whitver, Arts Commission
- X Jennifer Ogden, Park Board president
- X Barb Richey, Park Board (Arrived: 3:32 p.m.)
- X Bob Anderson, Park Board (alternate)
- X Kevin Brownlee

Staff

- Garrett Jones, Parks
- Berry Ellison, Parks
- Jonathan Moog, Parks
- Pamela Clarke, Parks
- Jo-Lynn Brown, Parks
- Melissa Huggins, Spokane Arts
- Karen Mobley, Spokane Arts

Minutes

1. **Call to order** – *Jennifer Ogden* called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
2. **Roll call** – See above
3. **Appointment to the committee**
 - A. Jennifer Ogden appointed Park Board member Kevin Brownlee to the JAC. She also appointed committee alternate member Bob Anderson as a voting member of today's meeting.
4. **Public comment**
 - A. None
5. **Action/discussion items**
 - A. The Seeking Place art piece siting/Riverfront Park – *Berry Ellison* provided an [overview of three potential sitings](#) in Riverfront Park for The Seeking Place art piece to be created by artist Sarah Thompson Moore. Mr. Ellison worked with Melissa Huggins, Karen Mobley, Jonathan Moog and Ms. Moore in identifying the pros and cons of these location options. The three sites under consideration include: 1) Central Green adjacent to the Pavilion; 2) Western Hill adjacent to the Theme Stream and Providence Playscape playground; and 3) East Havermale Island north of King Cole Bridge.
 - a. [Central Green](#) – This site is the artist's first choice and is the original location the artist envisioned for the artwork. The Seeking Place depicts basalt

columns and designed to appear as a rock outcrop which means it should be located on an elevation. The Central Green offer this type of landscape without bringing in additional earthwork. The close proximity to the Pavilion lights could add a visual enhancement to The Seeking Place as the Pavilion's changing lights shine in and around the sculpture. Ms. Moore believes the sculpture and the Pavilion will complement one another. The ADA path is expected to be easier to construct at this site in comparison to the other two proposed locations. Jonathan Moog explained the Central Green was designed to be programmable event space. He explained the impact to the art piece would be significant since concerts and ticketed events would be planned for this area. Garret Daggett believes it's important to listen to the artist's opinion on where the artwork is best suited. He asked if the artist might be interested in a site near the pathway outside the Pavilion north of the Y which was a location suggested by Mr. Moog. Melissa Huggins explained it is important to follow the Master Art Plan as the Request for Proposal spelled out that the artist site the artwork at locations within the master plan. Ms. Huggins is unsure if this alternate location adheres to the plan. She also explained there has been considerable time invested in getting cost estimates on the three identified sites.

- b. [Western Hill](#) – This location is Ms. Moore's second choice as it offers the elevation desired for the art piece. Mr. Ellison pointed out an ADA path would be more challenging to create at this location requiring switchbacks and possibly a railing. The Washington Water Power sign was identified as a significant distraction, particularly at night, since it would be in the line of sight of the sculpture. Mr. Moog believes this location and East Havermale Island location would have the least amount of impact on programmed events. Mr. Ellison said the Parks Foundation has a desire to place another Expo butterfly at this site.
- c. [East Havermale Island](#) – Mr. Ellison explained this particular part of the park is not slated for bond-funded improvements, and this could be an opportunity to activate the eastern side of the park. Because this is a flat grassy meadow, about 200 cubic yards of earthwork would need to be brought in to properly elevate the pad. One noted downside is the close proximity to the new dog park which could potentially mean urine smell and feces problems. Jennifer Ogden asked about the option of siting the artwork on the island further away from the proposed dog park. Mr. Moog said he would need to check with Avista since this alternate site is a crane-setting location. Considerations will also need to be made for the 4th of July fireworks which are set off from the island. Ms. Moore is concerned if The Seeking Place were sited on a flat location it would not be consistent with the concept of a basalt outcropping. There are also concerns of the nearby road traffic sounds and potential nighttime safety if the art piece were sited on the far east end of the island. Kevin Brownlee believes this would be the best location as the walk to the east end of the park is an exciting journey and makes this site a destination. He believes if the artwork was sited on the Western Hill, it would just be an object visitors pass by. Bob Anderson explained the Human Society has expressed a desire to host events at the new dog park and would need green space to hold

these events. By placing a sculpture in the meadow it would compete with those special events. Mr. Moog does not believe this specific location is the best site for a dog park as it would eliminate the 4th of July fireworks display off East Havermale Island.

- d. Other locations – Mr. Moog said Ms. Moore is reconsidering other locations, including one which would offer views of the King Cole Bridge and the other at the upper northeast corner of the Lilac Bowl. He also suggested the option of siting the artwork near the pathway outside the Pavilion north of the Y.
- e. Siting cost – The Central Green is estimated to be the least expensive location to site the art piece. Western Hill is expected to be the second most expensive and East Havermale Island is estimated to be the most expensive. Ms. Moore's bid covers the cost of the artwork, footings, base, ADA pathway through the sculpture and lighting. The ADA connection between the nearest walkway to the art piece is not included in the artist's contract. Mr. Ellison said the cost estimate for siting the art piece and creating the ADA pathway would be between \$17,000 and \$70,000, depending on location. He explained siting the piece on the Central Green would be between \$17,000 and \$20,000 since this area requires the least amount of disturbance. East Havermale could cost more than \$50,000. Much of the additional expense at East Havermale is due to creating an elevation and irrigation work. Mr. Ellison estimated a delta of about \$20,000 if East Havermale was selected.
- f. Project budget – No bond funds have been set aside to cover the siting cost for The Seeking Place. On Nov. 14, 2019, the Park Board approved a \$100,000 budget for the project which includes \$85,000 to the artist for the artwork for design, fabrication, taxes and contingency, and \$15,000 administrative fee to Spokane Arts for managing the project. Mr. Anderson requested staff to provide cost estimates which will be required before the Park Board can approve a siting.

Ms. Ogden asked each member their choice for the artwork siting. Six of the voting members supported recommending the Central Green and one member preferred East Havermale Island.

Garret Daggett left the meeting at 4:07 p.m. and offered a vote for the Central Green prior to his departure.

Garrett Jones and Mr. Anderson explained Parks cannot commit to a site selection until a cost has been determined. Remaining contingencies within the bond budget are very limited and almost all bond funds are committed. A funding mechanism will need to be determined before the board can approve the site selection.

Motion 1: Jennifer Ogden moved to recommended the Central Green for The Seeking Place siting contingent upon funding.

Bob Anderson seconded.

Motion passed with unanimous consent (7-0 vote).

Next steps – Staff will identify specific costs associated with the siting recommendation and present those figures to the Riverfront Park Committee Dec. 8 and to the Park Board Dec. 10 for final approval.

6. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Riverfront Park site for *The Seeking Place*- Parks considerations

SITE ONE- CENTRAL GREEN

Site Considerations

- Tree Removal: (Most of the new trees on and around the site will end up obscuring the main views of the sculpture.)
- Maintenance of tree leaves and pine needles falling in and around sculpture (especially with crushed basalt interior.)
- ADA Path (shorter/easier than site 2)

SITE TWO- WESTERN HILL

Site Considerations

- Shrub line to buffer the site from the parking area.
- ADA Path (more challenging and may require switchback and possibly railing)
- Washington Water Power sign is a significant distraction in the sight lines of the sculpture, especially at night. Will be in every photo and sight line from within the interior of the park.

SITE THREE- EAST HAVERMALE

Site Considerations

- Earthwork to raise an elevated pad (approximately 200 cubic yards).
- ADA Pathway (least challenging of the 3 sites)
- Maintenance: Near the new dog park: More dogs will be brought into sculpture= potential urine smell and feces problems.

Seeking Place Site Considerations, Sarah Thompson Moore:

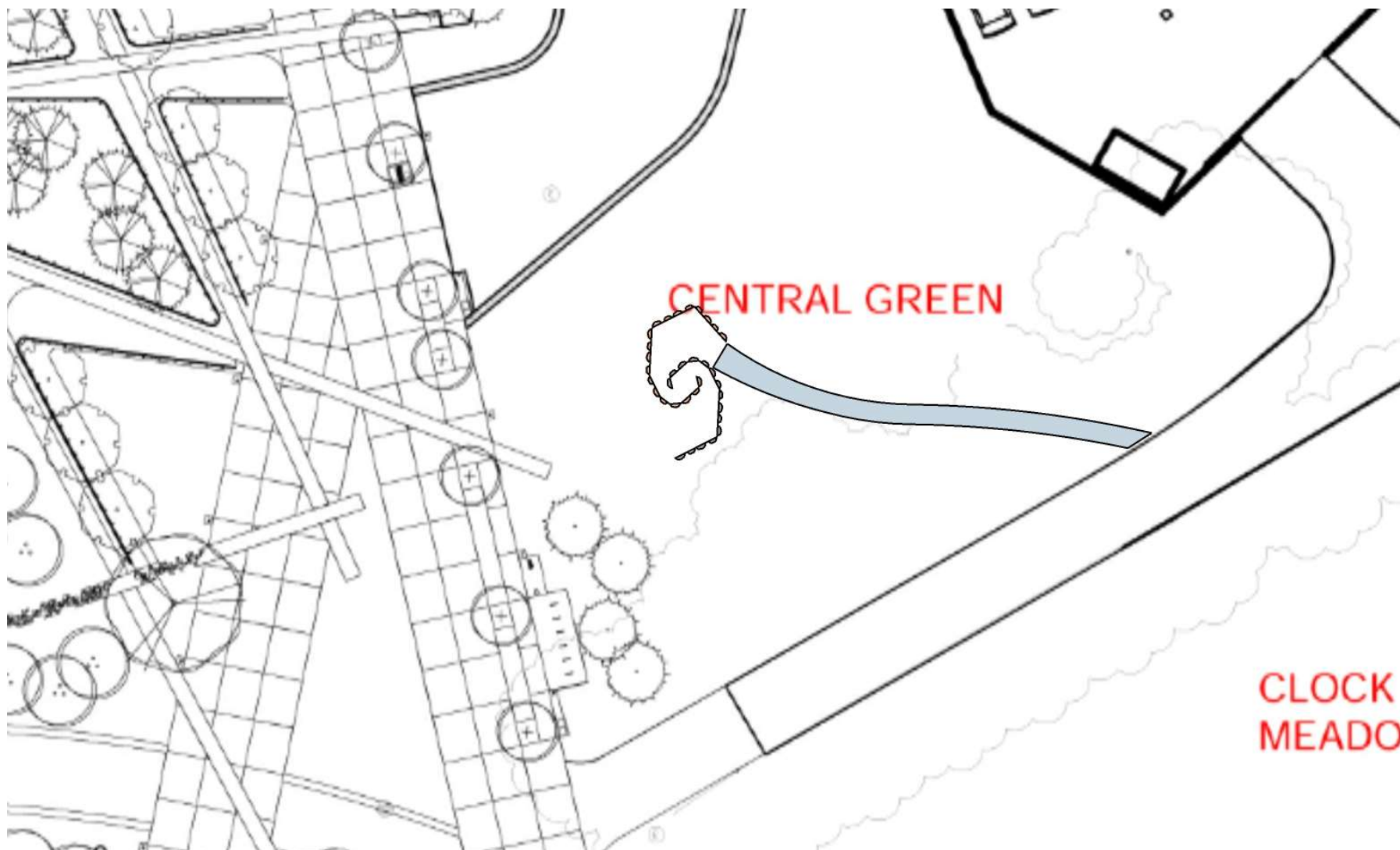
Upon more consideration and time spent at the potential sites, I still lean most toward the original intended site: the Central Green. It was a really close decision between this site and the “Western Hill” site. On the Western Hill, I love that the sculpture could open up to a wonderful view of the river, and that you can hear the flowing water from both the river and the theme stream. The Western Hill Site would be perfect except for the visually dominant Washington Water Power sign and the proximity to a roadway (significant traffic sounds). Especially at night, the bright green Washington Water Power sign is a very strong element to compete with in most of the sight lines from within the park. It will be in every photo taken of the sculpture.

With the Central Green Site: I was concerned about the sculpture competing with the Pavilion at night and being too close for comfort, however, spending more time at the site at night, I have come to the conclusion that The Seeking Place will be a complement to the changing lights of the Pavilion and there will be enough of a difference in light patterns/color that it will maintain its distinction from the Pavilion at night. I feel better about the positioning near the Pavilion than I do near the Washington Water Power sign when considering concerns about competing visual elements. The Seeking Place is about creating an inspiring, tranquil space to have a reprieve and I think it will accomplish that goal well within the busy park center. This site will require removal of several of the young trees surrounding, and I would propose maybe the trees could be moved to the Western Hill site. A grove of trees would be nice near the theme stream, providing shade on the hill overlooking the river.

The East Havermale Meadow has a few concerns for me: The Seeking Place will have its greatest visual impact when installed on an elevated hillside. This is in keeping with the idea of a basalt rock outcropping, but also helps with the feeling of scale of the sculpture. On flat ground the sculpture will look much smaller in scale. I feel that to create a mound in this site for the sculpture would be fairly difficult and runs the risk of looking unnatural within the meadow. I also have concerns about the proximity to the dog park- more dog owners will want to go through it with their dogs, leading to a greater potential for urine smells/dog feces inside. (This is more of a concern here than at the other sites.) Additionally, spending more time at the site, I realized that the sounds of road traffic are quite loud there. I imagine that will be the overbearing sound heard when experiencing the sculpture from within and that will take away from the peaceful experience intended.

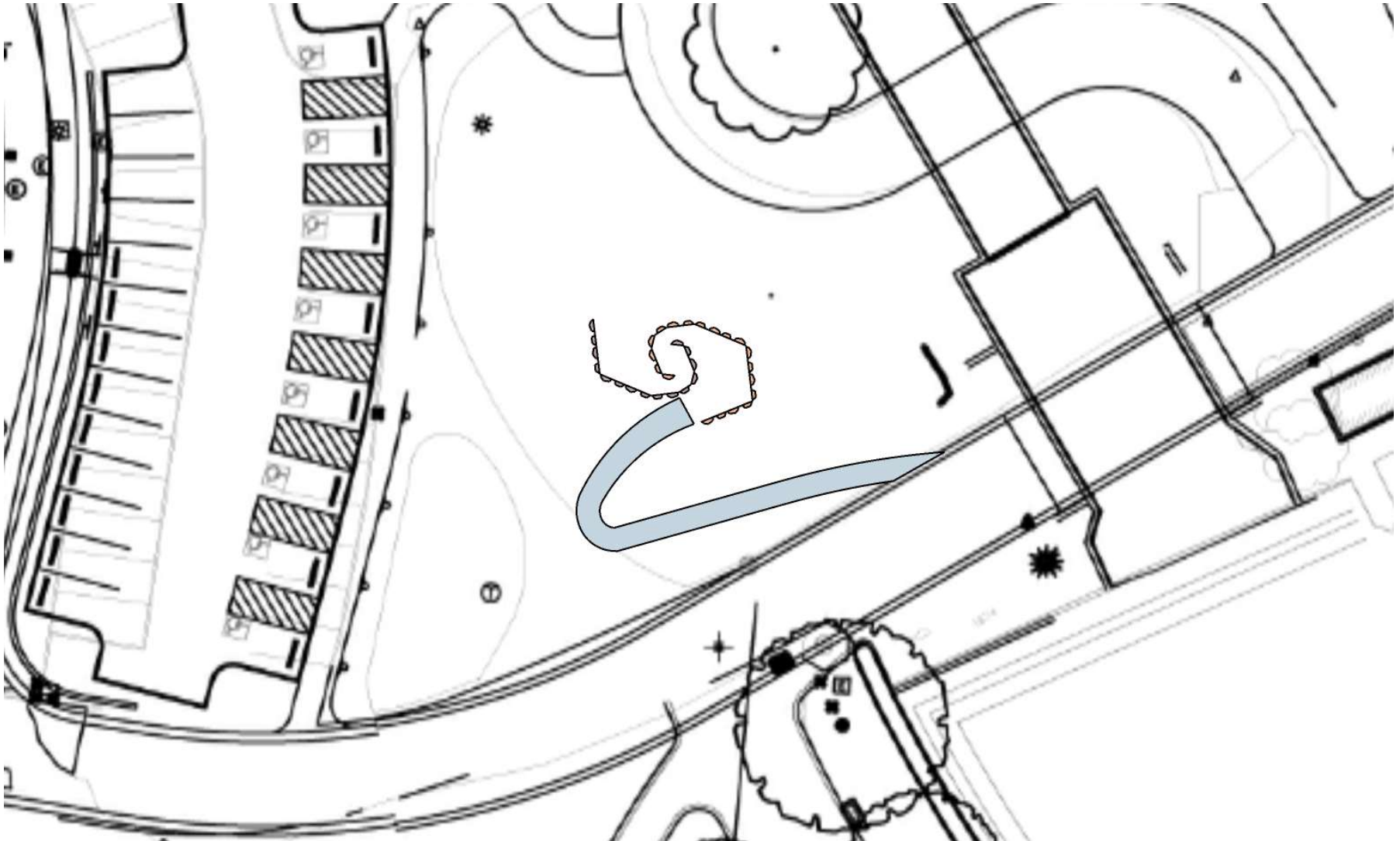
SITE 1- Central Green

*for scale: pathway is 5ft wide



SITE 2- Western Hill

*for scale: pathway is 5ft wide



SITE 3- East Havermale

*for scale: pathway is 5ft wide & circular raised mound is 73ft diameter and 4+ ft high

ESTRY SHELTER

