

Memorandum
August 25, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Yakima City Council
Robert Harrison, City Manager

From: Scott Schafer, Director of Public Works
Ken Wilkinson, Parks and Recreation Manager

Subject: Miller Park Improvements Initiative

In July, Alicia Garza spoke with Mayor Byers regarding starting a fund raising effort to make improvements to Miller Park. Mayor Byers provided Alicia Garza with contact information for the Yakima Parks & Recreation Division and a meeting at Miller Park was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020. A group of Northeast business owners, parents, coaches, community leaders and basketball players met with Ken Wilkinson, Parks & Recreation Manager, at the park to identify their ideas for improving the park. An initial meeting was held on July 28, 2020 with the community members, Mayor Byers, Council Member Macias and staff. A purpose statement was created by the group. The statement is **“Revitalizing Miller Park as the Heart of the Community”**. A list of improvements was created by the group and ranked by priority. The number 1 & 2 priorities are to resurface and reline the basketball courts and provide lights for safety and to allow play to continue later in the evening. Some of the other identified improvements are a new restroom, a second picnic shelter, a new playground, added walkways, additional picnic tables and benches. Cost estimates were developed and shared with the group at the second meeting which was held on August 11, 2020. Three of the community members presented their ideas to the Parks & Recreation Commission on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. The Park & Recreation Commission was grateful to the group and supports their efforts. Nicole Donegan from the Field Group has joined the committee and is working on creating an information and fund raising brochure for the proposed park improvements. Another meeting was held on Monday, August 24, 2020 to provide more input for the information and fund raising brochure. The brochure will be completed soon. The Yakima Streets Division is planning on removing and resurfacing one of the four courts in September if donations for the asphalt can be acquired. The other three courts do not need to be removed. They just need to be recoated and relined. Information is being gathered and grant applications are being prepared for submission to various organizations for the identified improvements. The Yakima Parks & Recreation Division is pleased to be working with another group of energetic and motivated community members that want to make improvements to a Yakima Park.