

Memorandum
October 18, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Yakima City Council
City Manager, Cliff Moore

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

Subject: Miller Park

Miller Park, located north of downtown Yakima on 4th Street and East "E" Street is 3.96 acres. The original parcel was 2.75 acres and was purchased from the Sister of Charity of the House of Providence in 1923 for \$16,680.00 and the adjacent parcel of land was purchased in 1972. We believe that the park is named in memory of Alexander Miller, who was a prominent businessman and a philanthropist in Yakima during the early 1900's. The property is also the home of the Washington Fruit Community Center, which is also known as the YPAL Building and prior to becoming the YPAL Building, it was the location of the Yakima Senior Center. This parcel was purchased in 1972 for the construction of the senior citizens center. After the construction of the Harman Center, the building was utilized for the YPAL program. The public swimming pool was closed and removed in 2005 and the 4 basketball courts were constructed in the location of the old pool.

Annual Park Maintenance Costs - \$40,000 per year.

Maintenance costs are comprised of mowing, irrigation, electricity, portable toilet rentals, fertilization and weed control, repairs and maintenance to the spray park, trash removal, tree maintenance and water costs for the spray park.

Revenue

Revenue from Miller Park is minimal and is derived from picnic shelter reservations.

Park amenities are as follows:

- Water Playground or spray park – 40' diameter or 1,256 square feet with 10 play features
- Picnic shelter
- Mature shade trees
- Basketball courts
- Sand pit volleyball court
- Performance area with electricity – location for the Viva la Music summer concert series
- Washington Fruit Community Center – 12,000 square feet
- Drinking fountain

- Security lights
- Picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles
- Sidewalks on three sides of the park

Improvements to the park are as follows:

- Installation of playground – 2001 – Rotary Club donation
- Construction of 4 basketball courts – 2005
- Installation of drinking fountain – 2006
- Construction of the water playground or spray park – 2007
- Replacement of park security lights - 2010
- Construction of a picnic shelter – 2011 - Southwest Rotary Club donation
- Installation of the UIC or drain field for water from spray park - 2012
- Construction of the performance area with electrical upgrade - 2014
- Demolition of old pool bath house – 2016
- Renovation of the Washington Fruit Community Center – previously the YPAL Building – ongoing

Programs

- Viva la Musica Summer Concert series – 7 concerts on Sunday afternoons
- Southwest Rotary Picnic shelter is available for private reservation and community events e.g. “Stop the Violence Rally – April 30, 2016
- YPAL programs

Current issues

- Aging playground equipment
- Homeless in the park
- Replacement of the basketball court surface

Current YMC Ordinances Regulating Parks – attached Memo from Sara Watkins provides details

1. Disorderly conduct
2. Fighting in Public
3. Drug and Alcohol regulations
4. Urinating in Public
5. Approaching people and asking for money.
6. Littering

Park Rules – title 13 YMC – Attached Memo from Sara Watkins provides details

- 13.16.015 Pedestrian right-of-way.
- 13.16.080 Trash to be placed in receptacles-Toilets not be defaced.
- 13.16.110 Animals prohibited from running at large.
- 13.20.020 Using park with unlawful intent or purpose.
- 13.20.030 Park curfew imposed-Exceptions-Park posting and warning as conditions precedent to conviction.

Possible Strategies to Address Issues - Attached Memo from Sara Watkins provides details