

Artesian Court Public Process

Comments Received

Updated 3/13/13

Asterisks (*) denote the number of times a similar comment was made

General Comments on Concept:

- “A fabulous idea whose time has come”
- “You’re turning the well into a tourist trap and vile entertainment center”
- Are we “gentrifying” the site, so some people will not use?
- Create a site with “class” and emphasize “world-class water”
- “It is our well- leave well enough alone”
- “Create a spot to show visitors from out-of-town, not a place for homeless to defile”
- Use funds to feed hungry teens instead of providing a sports court
- This is another financial “warm & fuzzy black hole”
- Postpone project and use money for more dire basic needs
- Concerned about funding & maintenance- need to figure out before going public
- “. . . appears to be another boondoggle destined to cause unintended consequences”
- “Take time to develop a plan to keep area clean & safe for citizens”
- “Expand this idea into a pedestrian-only shopping area downtown”
- “Has consideration been made about maintenance costs?”
- “I think the plan is gross over-kill”
- “Rethink this plan, the present one looks not unlike an outdoor pool hall.”
- “Build upon *urban park* context- don’t mimic nature with faux creek, rocks, etc”

Area Lighting

- Need lighting for programming at night
- Additional lighting on 4th should match existing street light
- Lighting needs to be “dimnable” for movie showing
- Lighting should be aesthetic, not utilitarian in nature

Artesian Well

- Need 24-hour access to the well
- Install an additional fill spigot **
- Need an artesian “drinking fountain” spigot- people put mouths on existing pipe
- Need cover fill area so as not to get soaked while filling containers
- Water has had a funky smell, like anaerobic decay, like tide flats in the sun
- Need a dog watering station to keep dogs from drinking out of artesian
- Move outfall to the east
- Need more elevated surface to keep jugs off of ground
- Full 5-gallon containers weigh 41.5 pounds

- Make it easier to get to the water
- Move pipe- does well need to stay where it is?
- “Please make access to the water easier, not impossible”
- “Not in the spirit of “Preserving Community Access to Historic, Free-Flowing Water.”

Stage Area

- Move stage area under awning- so performers are not in the rain
- Retractable awning cannot be mounted to Manium building
- Move stage south, away from front of Manium building
- Make stage a different color from asphalt to avoid tripping hazard

Access & Parking

- Access to the well with a vehicle is most important consideration****
- Need up to 7 dedicated parking spaces for artesian users
- Remember artesian well is “primary” use of site, not “secondary” use**
- Keep access next to well; water cart will not work
- Needs to be accessible for the elderly
- Need a bike rack
- Parking is too far away ***
- Re-open Jefferson Street entrance to improve traffic flow
- Prefer parking rather than basketball
- Create a new opportunity for convenient “drive-thru” water filling
- Mark bollards on 4th with red & white striped reflective tape for visibility
- Could City fleet vehicles be parked at old City Hall?
- Look at flipping sports court and fleet parking
- What effect does removal of parking have on required parking for City Hall?

Signage

- Provide designated parking space signs for well users
- Need an entrance sign
- Need a “park” rules sign and hours of operation signage
- Change plaque at well- purchased by citizens, not City Council

Public Information Kiosk

- Remove existing information kiosk- its inaccessible (locked)
- Remove existing kiosk- it provides access to Manium building roof
- Install a “real” community bulletin board, want free access (not locked cabinet)

Interpretation

- Provide interpretive information on artesian, geology, history, etc. Information, education about well is valuable **
- Include a geologic cross-section of the artesian phenomenon
- Put artesian story on one of the building walls
- Use artesian “I seen ‘em” theme/ad campaign in interpretation

Court Area, Site Furniture & Landscaping

- Need to put a “green wall”*** on the adjoining buildings- will eliminate graffiti
- “I love the idea for the mobile food vendors”
- Need more green**
- Be organic vs. urban
- Paint graphics rather than use thermoplastic- the tiles may be a tripping hazard
- Need a recycling station
- Wrought iron fencing? Have access to fence detail from old railroad station days
- Need to be able to secure tables & chairs at night
- Need a dumpster & dumpster enclosure
- Install planter boxes, bamboo trellis against black wall
- Use native vegetation
- Small, urban off-leash dog area (like Denny Regrade Park, Belltown, Seattle)?
- Have changing wall uses: “downtown calendar”, bulletin board, chalk board
- Create real stream with artesian overflow, not a “faux creek”
- Turn existing info kiosk base into a bench.

Public Restroom

- Restroom is too close to food vans
- Restroom is too close to water source- must be 100’ away
- “I see the need to construct a public restroom facility”
- Don’t like porta-potties- they are nasty
- Like Portland public restroom model
- Secure restrooms at night
- Need 24-hour restrooms downtown
- Small accessory dwelling unit above restroom- “apodment” for a park caretaker?

Outdoor Ping-Pong Table

- Ping pong will conflict with artesian users & dogs will chase balls
- Find ping-pong idea offensive and distasteful
- Area under ping-pong table will become a place to sleep
- “Ping-pong seems impractical in an uncontained space”

Public Use

- Disturbing clientele hang out at the artesian lot
- Concerned about vandalism and theft
- Spaces is already vibrant due to 1000 well users
- People are using existing information kiosk to get on Manium Building roof
- Any concrete seating wall would be tagged
- Don't make space too good so that homeless won't want to use it
- Existing courtyard area turns into a "madhouse" after dark
- A "different breed" shows up and "hangs out"; gather and head south
- Our public spaces "are going to ruin" by local transient population"
- Want "urban oasis" not a noisy sports court"
- Worry about congestion due to lots of use
- There is enough "hanging out" downtown- this will further encourage it
- Concern about congestion- well is a busy place

Movies & Murals

- "Bikestand" building owner OK with mural / movie screen idea
- Use quality artists to paint the murals

Project Financing

- Create a Local Improvement District (LID) to finance the project **

Develop Other Artesians

- Desire for additional artesian development in Olympia**
- YMCA artesian well basement- pipe into alley
- Uncap well off State St at Archer & Franklin
- What about another well- pro bono well driller?