

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Town Hall Meeting Record Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Background: the town hall meeting was an open public meeting as a result of prior council action during a regular council meeting and advertised prior to the town hall meeting. While Councilmembers Craig, Lie, Russell, and Sears were present, no action was taken.

Mayor Yarbrough welcomed participants to the town hall meeting at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held in hybrid format.

Clerk Stowe reviewed the process for commenting, including signing in, that comments had to be courteous, and that people could not talk over each other or engage in multiple conversations. She also encouraged them to read the handout giving more detail.

Public Works Director Norris spoke about the background and history of the park, which was donated to the city for the specific purpose of becoming a neighborhood park. The city purchased playground equipment for that purpose. The area of proposed parking was chosen because there was already a curb cut, but parking isn't needed if people do not want it. He then reviewed the small budget for the park.

Deloris Camerer asked if there would be a bathroom. She had concerns about sanitary issues and homeless people. Director Norris said there were no plans, and no budget, for any bathroom facilities, and it would be no different than other parks in the city.

Malcolm Cunningham talked about the proposed chain-link fence and felt it was unnecessary. He suggested a split-rail fence along the highway only. He talked about what other cities do for park fences and parking and suggested a paved parking area off Amanda Avenue. Mayor Yarbrough said there was no budget at this time for fencing.

Al Robinson was interested in seeing how the city used public property and said parks in general are not destinations, but for neighborhoods. Because of that he questioned the need for parking and also encouraged the city to not fence the area as he was in favor of open green space. He asked if developers were required to put in parks and suggested that for the future.

Phil Peksanli likes the idea of a neighborhood park and didn't see the lack of sanitary facilities as being a problem. He talked about the maintenance of split-rail fences and felt parking and fencing was not needed. He also thought the proposal was for a skate park. Director Norris told him that a skate park was approved by the council but that would be a separate project and located in railroad park. Mr. Peksanli asked if the two projects could be combined, but the skate park will generate a lot more activity and take up more space.

Leigh Anne Barr thanked the council for holding the town hall meeting and is in support of a park with playground equipment that will be within walking distance for the neighborhood. She hoped the council would keep the positive comments in mind as she knew there had been negative comments made.

Clerk Stowe reviewed a letter received from Kasandra Callaway explaining her objections to the park, which included safety, traffic, long-term quality of life, the highway and traffic, difficulty entering and exiting the park, and vandalism that already takes place in the area. She was in support of parks in general but not in that location specifically and urged the council to reconsider the proposal.

Arina (no last name given) spoke via Zoom in support of more open space, other long-term visions for opportunities for older kids and asked about ball parks. Director Norris said there was no land for ball parks but reminded her of the proposed future skate park. She also said street parking was fine without a parking lot and that she had heard concerns about people having to go into the community to turn around.

Sonia (no last name given) had no objection to a small park but asked if the Moring Park sign would go back up. Director Norris said the sign was installed without permission by a business owner and would not be going back up. He also said there was no budget for signage. She then asked about the safety of the playground equipment. Director Norris said that it is all being upgraded and Mayor Yarbrough said the budget included refurbishing to bring it up like new and to also include wood chips under the equipment.

There was time for Malcolm Cunningham to speak again, and he said he would be happy with no fencing.

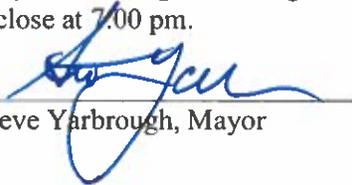
Director Norris said if the parking lot wasn't installed there would be a budget for more picnic tables. Councilmember Lie pointed out that the design of the tables did not encourage homeless people sleeping on them. Councilmember Craig said she would rather see the funding used for more activities in the park, like a horseshoe pit.

Matthew Rhodes suggested a water fountain.

Director Norris said this park would follow the normal park regulations, opening at dawn and closing at dusk, and including deputy patrols.

Leigh Anne Bar asked about maintenance and Director Norris said maintenance would be the same as what city staff already did.

Mayor Yarbrough encouraged further comments to be directed to him and called the town hall meeting to a close at 7:00 pm.


Steve Yarbrough, Mayor


Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

