

Urban Design Commission

December 10, 2025

Case #: **2025-0142**

Case Title: Major Site Plan Review for 2026 Town Square Park Improvements Project

Agenda Item #: **G.1** Supplementary Packet #: **1**

X Comments submitted after the packet was finalized

☐ Additional information

☐ Other:

Kimmel, Corliss A.

From: Dianne Holmes <dianneholmes12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Kimmel, Corliss A.; Perry, Susan
Subject: For UDC Dec 10th on #2025-0142

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Commissioners,

It is with deep regret that I am unable to address you in person nor even by phone testimony on this TSP's major site plan review.

As some of you may know, Town Square Park has been dear to my heart since the 1980s when Ruth Moulton embarked on nearly a decade-long challenge and four lawsuits to bring a downtown park to fruition-- a park that the people voted for--more than once.

There are design changes today, whether they be for a park or another public facility, that are often a result of human behavior that may not exist in the near future. It is a shame we must design our public spaces that way, because in doing so, we often lose the original intent --in this case it was for a quiet, downtown green oasis (except for special events).

This site plan review is due in part to ameliorate some of the unfortunate human actions, and the fear they cause in others who want to use the park. There is also a real need to amend prior, unsuccessful remodeling efforts that resulted in too much concrete, among other poor designs.

My specific site plan review comments are:

1. Glad to see grassy seating as families like it.
2. Keep the flower beds large. I see several small ones that I feel will only get trampled and will need more maintenance (watering,etc) than large beds.
3. Except for special events, commercialization should be kept out of the park. It destroys the intent for a quiet city park and has been a potential issue for many years.
4. The swing benches are something that doesn't fit with the park especially with large covers. They could be considered a safety hazard for children and the 'natural play area' is close to where the swings appear to be designed. The swing roofs as shown in the design are very unattractive and unnecessary in my mind, plus they constitute what some may consider 'permanent' structures which is illegal according to conditions of the charter.
5. Keep lots of evergreen trees as they provide year-round color. Otherwise birch trees constitute a 'mono-culture' which is not as healthy nor visibly attractive as a mixture of types.
6. TSP is public infrastructure for the whole municipality. It is our central gathering place (along with the park strip). Downtown businesses benefit from the park's activities, but designs for specific businesses should not be included.