

Dougherty comments/questions on Town Square Master Plan:

I'm aware this is a work in process without details. But there are some general observations that can be made at this point.

1. The survey/comments from the public expressed interest in some summer water activities such as a splash pool. Ideally, since the ice rink has limited use during the summer months (except Swiss Days), a portable splash pad would make good use of this level hard surface during the summer, as well as provide protection to the ice rink surface. See for example, splashpadsusa.com (located in North Salt Lake) or raindeck.com. This option should be investigated.
2. We should focus on minimizing turf due to maintenance and most importantly, water use. I believe shade trees with spot irrigation is preferable.
3. I would prefer we keep the pavilion and restrooms where they are and renovate them. They function well now.
4. A functional food truck court, even for only three or four, should be located where access is easy for the truck and for pedestrians. Power posts should be provided each truck site in order to eliminate generators. I have questioned local restaurants who feel food trucks would add to their businesses and not detract by bringing in more visitors. In addition, we have heard that when our fixed food servers are closed, there are limited options for visitors which then hurts those businesses that are open but don't provide food service. The current plan appears to provide limited service in the center of the Square. My preference would be a more visible location closer to Main Street, perhaps between the Town Hall and Community Center.
5. The Multipurpose Event Patio should be relocated from the south east to a location on the north of the Multipurpose Lawn to direct event noise into the center of the Square and not to the residences and businesses to the north of the Square.
6. I question both the amount and singular location of public parking off street. I get the focus on pedestrian use of the Square. But most people won't walk from their homes or rentals to the Square. Also, we should provide bike parking off sidewalks. It may be better to replace the tennis court with more parking with shade trees. Keep the pavilion where it is now.
7. The renovation/rebuild of the Lodge (Community Center) should be a coordinated but an entirely separate project from the Square renovations. The Lodge is not a public amenity but rather a center for governmental functions.
8. Absolutely no water features. Even if recirculating with a low water consumption, it is a bad message to residents and agricultural irrigators who are limited in their water uses.

Finally, the costs of this project are far beyond what most residents would expect. While some public amenities are welcome and important, the magnitude of the costs projected are grossly excessive. Midway is not a country club of wealthy members. There are real people here trying to make ends meet. If a project with this expense were to move forward, I propose it be funded by a separate improvement bond subject to an election. That would also serve as a "survey" of the voting residents. We have plenty of safety and convenience projects that should have