

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Palouse Skate Park Committee

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<http://www.palouseskatepark.com>

(Design Plans are attached in JPG format)

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Palouse, Washington--Chandeliers really did hang at "An Evening for the Skatepark," on Wednesday night in Palouse! The Palouse Skatepark Event Committee estimates that nearly 150 people attended the open gathering at the Palouse Community Center. Over \$8000 were raised through silent auction proceeds and donations. The event offered 35 auction items with contributions from all across the region, including overnight stays in 3 states. "Our volunteers were fantastic! We have received rave reviews about everything from our door greeters to the music, the generous auction donations, the food, and our kids' area was a happening place for the entire event," says Connie Newman, Auction Committee Member. No-host bars were available to adults, and beer was provided by Paradise Creek Brewery, with wine poured from Merry Cellars. A team of 4 people kept plates loaded with Hawaiian Teriyaki Meatballs, Loaded Potato Wedges, vegetable trays, hummus with Crostinis, and cupcakes, all complimentary for guests to enjoy.

More than a fundraiser, the event also hosted the official unveiling of the Phase One plans for construction of the Tony Kettel Skate Gardens. The design (**attached**) features a pool-like skate bowl to the west with an urban plaza-like street section to the east end of the park along Whitman Street. In the center, atop a pyramid next to a fun-box, is a pivoting skate feature, made from Flansburg Farm's retired grain auger, cut down and bolted to the concrete. "This is something you will likely never see any other place," says Aaron Flansburg, Skatepark Chair, "and it took some doing, but I'm really looking forward to seeing people skate it."

To the east end of the park, a three-tiered set of curved ledges, flowing into a bank on one end and incrementally higher drops on the other will be bordered by a nine stair set with a handrail and bank. Across from the ledges will be a foot-high manual pad, rimmed by a curb to contain boards. This part of the skatepark has been referred to as the amphitheatre. Primarily a skate feature, its multi-use manual pad might be used during daylight hours for special events about 3-5 times a year, designed to host small musical or theatrical gatherings. The steps will seat around 80 people, and this part of the design is a bit misunderstood. "Feedback we have received about this area is widely very positive," says Flansburg. "Steps, stairs, benches, and manual pads are all common skatepark elements. These features have the potential to serve as an occasional-use space to showcase talent, and may be available

in conjunction with other community-wide events, but this will not be a nightly or weekly concert venue," he explains. "Immediately behind the seating area is a tall grassy bank that will deflect and absorb noise away from the surrounding areas. Our plans also include plantings which will further mitigate noise concerns."

The public might also be interested to learn that this privately donated land was given to the Palouse Skatepark nonprofit to develop this particular plan. An early rendering with this feature was indeed shown at the public forum at the Whitman Street site in June of 2014 and at City Hall following the completion of the Critical Areas Checklist on July 8th. As the site is privately owned and managed, Palouse Skatepark, Inc. will be responsible for all maintenance and providing their own insurance for the facility, though the park will be open to the public. Rules for the use of the facility will be determined by the board of directors. It will be available for use by riders of skateboards, skates, and non-motorized scooters as a "use at your own risk" facility with similar usage requirements to other skateparks.

The Palouse Skatepark board of directors and the donors of the site share a vision of this space as a multi-use facility, as there are roughly 26,000 square feet contained in the gift. Less than half of the space will ever be covered in concrete, leaving areas for artistic expression, open space, and a planned walking path through an "edible forest." Next to Whitman Street will be an "art wall," where artists can submit designs for review to the Skatepark Arts Committee. These murals, once created, may be replaced annually, allowing for rotation of painted art pieces. Also on the lower level will be a picnic area and barbeque grill for families gathered at the park.

The timeline for completion of this project is open-ended, as this will be a phased development. It will expand and evolve as time and funding allow. Materials, labor, and other in-kind contributions have been pledged, including 294 sticks of #3 rebar generously donated from Haskins Steel, Inc. of Spokane. Phase One is slated to begin construction in late spring, and the group hopes to have some skate-able features ready for use before the end of summer. Phase Two will include additional landscaping, development of walking paths and garden space on the plateau above the skatepark, and perhaps covered areas and additional elements to skate closer to the Police Station. The project will continue to improve with the involvement of volunteers and the support of Palouse and the surrounding communities. The group has been shown great support both vocally and financially at the recent "Evening for the Skatepark" event, and the Board of Directors and Auction Committee would like to assure the public that the same level of care that went into the event and design plans will translate into a first-class facility that Palouse can be proud of!

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