

GREENFIELD

Recreation Department unveils skate park design

\$780K, 11,000-square-foot downtown space expected to be ready by next spring

By **MARY BYRNE**
Staff Writer

GREENFIELD — Local skateboarding enthusiasts gathered at the city’s Sanderson Street offices Tuesday evening for a reveal of the final design of the new skate park, slated to be built in the northern portion of what is now the public parking lot between Chapman and Davis streets.

“It’s a dream that I had said,

“Once I get the skate park built, I’ll officially be able to retire,” said Recreation Director Christy Moore. “I don’t plan on retiring, but I’m glad that’s it happening before I’m ready to.”

The project, Moore noted, has been a “true community effort.”

“We’ve had fundraising in the community,” she said. “We’ve had capital funding from City Council. We received the \$400,000 PARC (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities) grant. Without everyone’s help, this would not happen.”

The meeting Tuesday followed a design plan meeting on April 7, dur-

ing which members of the public were invited to ask questions and provide their input.

The \$780,000 skate park, which has an estimated completion date of late next spring, would be a successor to the former 17,000-square-foot skate park at the back of what is now the Olive Street Apartments. The project is being funded by \$350,000 in capital funds, \$30,000 in donations from the community and the \$400,000 state PARC grant.

The skate park is being designed by Pillar Design Studios, which has been involved in similar projects in Turners Falls, Springfield and Worcester, according to Brad



CONTRIBUTED

The Greenfield skate park is being designed by Pillar Design Studios. A virtual rendering of the roughly 11,000-square-foot skate park includes four entry points, three of which are handicap accessible.

Siedlecki, president of the landscape architecture firm. Pillar Design Studios specializes in action sports design, planning, construction and process services.

“Brad has done a remarkable job incorporating all of our skate park elements that you guys have

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STAFF PHOTO/PAUL FRANZ

The new Greenfield skate park is slated to be built on the northern portion of the public parking lot between Chapman and Davis streets.

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FROM A1

emailed me, and presented to Brad on April 7," Moore said.

On Tuesday, Siedlecki shared a virtual rendering of the roughly 11,000-square-foot skate park, which includes four entry points — three of which are handicap accessible — a shade structure, benches, a solar charging station for electronics, and water bottle refill stations. Most notably, the skate park offers a nod to Poet's Seat Tower.

"I would really like to

bring in some local artists to recreate the brick pattern of Poet's Seat," he said.

Meeting attendees asked about the trees, which will be planted in part to mitigate noise that residents expressed concern about at the meeting earlier this month. In response to questions about lighting — in particular from residents who hoped to see stadium lighting — Moore reminded people to be cognizant of light pollution.

"Let's build a park, use the lights we have and go from there," she said.

Acknowledging that minor

design changes would follow Tuesday's meeting, Moore said she was pleased with Siedlecki's design and grateful for the skateboarding community's involvement throughout the process.

She was especially grateful to see Poet's Seat Tower included in the design.

"Poet's Seat Tower is what we're known for," Moore said. "I wanted it to have a local touch."

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