

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

April 18, 2022

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the Fire Department Training Room, 625 Ute Avenue, and live streamed via GoToWebinar.

City Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers Randall Reitz, Dennis Simpson, Rick Taggart, Abe Herman, Anna Stout, and Mayor Chuck McDaniel

City Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Phil Pe'a

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Interim City Clerk Laura Bauer, Deputy City Clerk Selestina Sandoval, and Parks and Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou,

1. Discussion Topics

a. Community Recreation Center Survey Discussion

The Community Recreation Center Survey was conducted by The Social Research Center of Colorado Mesa University Professors Justin Gollob, Eliot Jennings, and Clay King, in partnership with Berwood Yost of the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College and City staff. Mr. Gollob attributed the success of the survey to the community messaging on the importance of the survey. Mr. Yost provided an overview of the process used to conduct the survey. He said most of the data collection took place in February of 2022 using multiple methods such as online, mailing and telephone. The group concluded there was an 80% cooperation rate and of the respondents, 59% support the City building an indoor recreation facility and 49% were favorable to using a 15% nicotine tax as a funding mechanism. The majority of those surveyed preferred one large facility versus multiple smaller facilities and the majority supported Matchett Park as the preferred location. In response to Council questions, funding the project would come from cannabis revenue as a base, and nicotine tax to supplement. Council expressed concern that if it isn't feasible to build at Matchett Park, and they build at Lincoln Park, there could be pushback from the community. Council was also concerned that in 2019 the community survey was favorable to constructing a center; however, the measure failed at the polls by 54%. City Manager Caton reminded Council that there were three tax issues on that ballot, which could have contributed to the failed measure. It was noted that this survey did not include questions regarding funding annual maintenance. There was discussion in support of using the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in collaboration with a consultant and staff to work on various components of a community recreation center. City Council discussion also included when to refer the matter to the ballot.

b. Orchard Mesa Pool

Parks and Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou spoke on this topic. He informed Council that the pool is 38 years old and is jointly funded by the City, the county and the school district.

Significant maintenance work is needed. Mesa County reduced their financial contribution this year; however, the school district made up the difference. The average number of users per day is 109; however, whether these users are City residents is not known. Council asked staff if they could delve deeper into who the users are city residents, Mesa County residents, visitors, etc. City Manager Caton suggested that Council may want to have a discussion with the county regarding their future funding commitments regarding the pool. Council discussed the pros and cons of converting the pool building into a multi-use facility, using reserves to move ahead with pool improvements now and bundling and bundling future building renovations with the community center question on a future ballot.

2. City Council Communication

There was no Council communication.

3. Next Workshop Topics

City Manager Caton reviewed upcoming topics

4. Other Business

There being no further business, the Workshop adjourned at 7:34 pm