

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

November 30, 2020

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 7:24 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Kraig Andrews, Chuck McDaniel (attended virtually), Phyllis Norris, Phil Pe'a, Anna Stout (attended virtually), Rick Taggart (attended virtually) and Mayor Duke Wortmann.

Planning Commission present: Chair Andrew Teske and Member Keith Ehlers attended virtually.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Parks and Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou, City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann, and Deputy City Clerk Selestina Sandoval. Attending virtually: Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Senior Planner Lance Gloss, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Senior Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, Deputy Police Chief Mike Nordine, and Finance Director Jodi Welch.

Mayor Wortmann called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan: Preliminary Plan Presentation

Mr. Sherbenou introduced the topic. The City, working with a consulting group, is forging a parks, recreation and open space master plan derived from public engagement and input. This effort will produce a Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan. The Master Plan will provide clear direction for services, facilities and amenities for the next five to eight years.

The consultant team with GreenPlay reviewed the statistically valid survey, particularly a question related to physical and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plan lays out a number of capital priorities based on public input and a level of service analysis.

Potential funding mechanisms were discussed, to include tax revenue from recreation and medical marijuana, grants and fundraising, and tax revenue on tobacco and vaping products. The consultant reviewed the four stages of public engagement that were utilized: information gathering; findings and visioning; draft recommendations; and final plan.

Discussion ensued around canal trails, grant opportunities, survey questions, ice rink, sports as an economic driver, disposition of Plan when it is adopted, timing for completion of feasibility study, adoption of the Lincoln Park Master Plan, and possible ballot question(s) regarding a tax for a recreation center.

Support was expressed for the feasibility study and continued exploration of possible ballot question(s).

b. Update on Marijuana Working Group

Ms. Allen introduced the topic and reminded Council of the workshop in September where public comment was received and City Council provided the direction to form a working group (made up of individuals in the marijuana industry, community members, and business owners) to craft a recommendation regarding marijuana businesses.

Mr. Gloss reviewed the timeline of marijuana legalization statewide and citywide. In 2013 marijuana-related businesses were disallowed city wide and in 2016 testing facilities were allowed in certain zones. Staff has been meeting with the community working group to discuss marijuana business types and will explore a ballot measure in April 2021 regarding taxation and repeal of moratorium.

Discussion ensued regarding the criteria for selecting members of the working group, the sentiment of those against marijuana businesses, the past moratorium, possible number of businesses, rate of tax (and recommendations and examples of other community's rates), and the potential uses of tax revenue.

Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication

Councilmember McDaniel noted that, given the surge of COVID and the restriction on businesses, it would be helpful to receive information and data on the impact to businesses and an update from the Business Incubator Center on the grant program. Councilmember Taggart requested information on the non-profit community.

Councilmember McDaniel discussed the process for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Councilmember Stout requested information on the outreach efforts that are being conducted to the non-profit agencies about CDBG funding opportunities and how the pandemic is impacting these agencies.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

A discussion will be held regarding the impacts of the pandemic on the local economy and outreach efforts to businesses and non-profit agencies.

Mr. Caton noted updates on the Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan and the Comprehensive Plan will be provided at the next workshop (December 14).

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

None

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 7:24 p.m.