

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 22-23

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING FOR THE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER PROJECT

Recitals:

The Community Recreation Center (CRC), when constructed, will fill a major gap in the community's infrastructure with being the first multi-purpose indoor recreation center in Grand Junction. Every other western slope community has a recreation center including Delta, Durango, Montrose, Cortez, Meeker, Fruita and Gunnison.

The 2021 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, driven by community input such as a statically valid mail survey, revealed that the highest priority of the community was to build a CRC. This was further confirmed by a statistically valid phone survey conducted by Professors from Colorado Mesa University (CMU) conducted in February 2023. Following this result, the City conducted a feasibility study for a CRC in 2022, which led to an April 4, 2023 ballot proposal asking voters if they approve of the CRC.

The CRC is planned to be the largest on the western slope with a multi-generational aquatic center with a warm water leisure pool consisting of a lazy river, zero depth entry, water playground and slides, a cool water lap pool, and a warm water therapy pool, a multi-sport gymnasium, an indoor walk/job track, a fitness and weights area, multi-purpose meeting rooms and other community gathering and recreation spaces.

The proposal incorporates tax revenue on the sale of cannabis already approved by voters in April 2021 with a 0.14% sales tax increase to build a state-of-the-art CRC at City owned Matchett Park. This is significantly less of a sales tax increase than voters have turned down in the past and it is much less of an increase than the other aforementioned communities have implemented to funds their respective centers. The funds from these two sources will cover the annual debt payment on a \$70,000,000 facility as well as the projected annual operational subsidy. The subsidy is the difference between the annual operational expense and the annual revenue from fees.

The financing plan that has fiscal responsibility at its core also describes a strategy for pursuing funding from alternative sources. This includes pursuing grants and partnerships to maximize the success of the project. Several potential sources have been identified including the Department of Local Affairs, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), several private foundations and this Congressionally Directed Spending.

The CRC project is anticipated to provide a broad array of community and individual benefits. For the projected 1,100 people expected to visit each day, these individuals will have improved health and wellness, social connection, longevity and increased work or school performance. The community will also benefit with an improved quality of life

that is critical for attracting and retaining businesses and residents. The community will experience the economic impact from the construction of facility, especially since many local firms have the experience and capability to be a contractor on the project. Additionally, there will be increased economic activity associated with the CRC. Finally, positive engagement reduces crime by providing constructive activity for youth and lowers healthcare costs, especially for seniors.

Colorado Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet and their staff work tirelessly to secure important federal funding for Colorado, and accordingly the Senators are considering Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests for the 2024 fiscal year. It is the City's desire that Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper utilize Congressionally Directed Spending to secure funding for the CRC in support of the City, Mesa County and the region. With CDS for the Project, the State, the region and especially the greater Grand Junction community will be benefitted, by state and local government entities and nonprofits. Funding for projects, if approved, would be distributed as part of the federal appropriations process during FY24 (October 2023 – September 2024). Requests for 2023 funding are due March 10, 2023.

After due consideration, the City Council of the City of Grand Junction supports the Project and authorized the President of the City Council and staff to submit a request for Congressionally Directed Spending to obtain the necessary funding for the Project, and if awarded, to enter into such further agreements as are necessary and proper to complete the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION THAT:

- 1: The City Council of the City of Grand Junction strongly supports a request to Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper for Congressionally Directed Spending for the Community Recreation Center. The requested \$5.0 million would help ensure the currently planned CRC comes to fruition as promised and also in a way that maximizes success. The City Manager is authorized and directed to work to finalize the City's portion of the request.
- 2: If the funding is awarded, the City Council of the City of Grand Junction strongly supports the completion of the Project and authorizes the City Manager to sign appropriate agreements on behalf of the City as a sub-grantee of the Congressionally Directed Spending.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption.

Passed and adopted this 1st day of March 2023.



Anna Stout
City Council President

ATTEST:



Amy Phillips
City Clerk

