

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

September 16, 2013 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 11:30 a.m. in the Administration Conference Room

Meeting Adjourned: 2:00 p.m.

Council Members present: All except Councilmembers Doody and Norris. Staff present: Englehart, Shaver, Moore, Camper, and Tuin.

Agenda Topic 1. Museum of Western Colorado (MWC) Director

Council President Sam Susuras introduced the Executive Director of the MWC Peter Booth. Accompanying Mr. Booth was incoming Board President Laurena Mayne Davis and Marketing Director Christy Pollard.

Mr. Booth distributed a six-month Progress Report and their latest newsletter. He reviewed MWC's mission and purpose. He addressed their Strategic Plan which includes four areas: maintaining financial stability and providing an opportunity for growth; protect and enhance collections; provide public programs and community outreach; and full utilization and care of facilities. He noted that the Museum was subject to a funding cut in 2008/2009. He lauded the economic impact and importance of heritage tourism. Important elements of their financials include partnerships, both private and public; memberships and donations; grants and sponsorships; investment and endowments; admissions and programs; and earned revenues.

Mr. Booth identified MWC's needs and challenges: the need for improved way-finding signage; to develop a positive homeless policy relative to the Whitman Park; address petty crime near the Museum including in their parking lot; improve the downtown neighborhood; and an increase of promotion of the City.

When asked what the estimated immediate capital improvement need, Mr. Booth said there are a number of maintenance items that have been deferred and are critical. He estimated the cost of those items to be \$130,000. There was a discussion of the ballot question in 1974 where the voters authorized a mill levy for support of the Museum. Due to a legal interpretation, the Museum has not been receiving a full mill levy but has been allocated \$375,000 in recent years from the County.

Mr. Booth described some of the retrofits needed at the Museum of the West building downtown and estimated their cost at \$250,000.

Councilmember Boeschstein, who serves on the Museum Board, provided a little history of the Museum and then identified some steps the City could take to improve the situation with the Museum: post rules in Whitman Park so that enforcement can take place, have events in Whitman Park such as festivals, improve way-finding signage to the Museum, and improve the Museum image as a tourism attraction. He said the City needs to reclaim Whitman Park.

Councilmember McArthur voiced concern that if the vagrants are misplaced from the Park, where will they go? He said there is no easy answer.

City Manager Englehart suggested the next step will be to discuss the City Council's vision with them on the work day scheduled in October. He noted there have been other discussions on how to improve that neighborhood. He asked Mr. Booth if some of those were to be put in motion, if that would influence what investment the Museum puts into the downtown location. Mr. Booth responded that was part of the reason for the presentation.

Councilmember Chazen inquired if the same presentation has been made to the County to which Mr. Booth responded affirmatively. The Museum funding by the County was discussed. City Attorney Shaver asked if there is a written legal opinion on the mill levy allocation. Christy Pollard replied that they have an opinion from Scott McInnis and a written option from the County Attorney.

Councilmember McArthur indicated he would like to know what the long term commitment would be to the Museum.

That concluded the presentation, with Council President Susuras thanking the Museum representatives.

Agenda Topic 2. Release of the 7th Street Natural Gas Leak - After Action Report

City Manager Englehart introduced the topic and deferred to Fire Chief Ken Watkins to present the report.

Chief Watkins distributed the complete report and explained what an After Action Report is as well as stating it is not an official investigation of the incident. An eleven member task force reviewed how the incident was handled and have made some findings and recommendations on what things were done well as well as things that could be done better in the event of another emergency incident. The task force looked at seven areas and put forward findings and recommendations. Those areas were: command, operations, incident communications, public communications, security, recovery, and prevention. He identified specific actions for improvements that will happen over the course of time as well as the many things they have already put into place from the recommendations. He expressed appreciation to the City Council for their support during and after the incident.

City Manager Englehart advised that they are working to get the sites cleaned up. Ownership on the two properties has changed.

Councilmember Boeschstein asked Staff to request maps on utility lines from the utility companies. City Manager Englehart said that request has been made but the utility companies have security concerns with providing that information.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013, 11:30 A.M.
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
2ND FLOOR CITY HALL
250 N. 5TH STREET**

To become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025

1. **Museum of Western Colorado (MWC) Director Peter Booth:** The MWC would like to discuss with the City Council members and key City staff several issues now confronting the MWC's downtown institution, the Museum of the West.
2. **Release of the 7th Street Natural Gas Leak - After Action Report:** The 7th Street Natural Gas Leak Task Force has completed the After Action Report (AAR) on the gas leak incident that occurred on March 19, 2013. A presentation will be made to City Council to review the executive summary and findings and recommendations sections of the report. In addition, Council will be briefed on any comparisons or lessons learned from the White Hall Fire AAR that were applied.
3. **Other Business**