

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013, 3:00 P.M.  
CITY AUDITORIUM  
250 N. 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

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

- 1. STARS Program:** Summer Time Arts and Recreation for Students (STARS) program is a 9 week activity camp offered by the Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department. The program was started in 1997 to fill a community niche of positive summertime activities for students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

[Attach W-1](#)

- 2. Discussion on Form Based Zoning:** Staff will discuss the current Form Based Zone Districts found in the Grand Junction Municipal Code and discuss several changes proposed for these Zoning Districts. These proposed changes are expected to eliminate barriers and clean up language allowing for more flexibility in the development of mixed use projects.

[Attach W-2](#)

**3. Board Reports**

**4. Other Business**



Date: December 12, 2013

Author: Rob Schoeber

Title/ Phone Ext: Park and Recreation

Director

Proposed Meeting Date:

December 16, 2013

## **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT WORKSHOP**

Attach W-1

**Topic:** STARS Summer Camp Program

**Staff (Name & Title):** Rob Schoeber, Parks and Recreation Director  
Emily Krause, Recreation Supervisor

### **Summary:**

Summer Time Arts and Recreation for Students (STARS) program is a 9 week activity camp offered by the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department. The program was started in 1997 to fill a community niche of positive summertime activities for students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

### **Background, Analysis and Options:**

The STARS program is currently offered at four sites throughout the community, five days per week during the summer break. The program averages 215 participants registered on a weekly basis. Included in the program are field trips, guest speakers and a wide variety of physical activities. Meals and transportation are not included, and participants are dropped off and picked up at various locations. The 2013 rate of \$79/week covered 100% of direct program costs. Staff recommends an increase to \$84/week in 2014.

Concerns have been brought forth from a local daycare provider requesting STARS fees to be increased to \$125/week.

### **Board or Committee Recommendation:**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended support of the current STARS program during its July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Financial Impact/Budget:**

2013 Revenues:	\$152,118
2013 Expenses:	\$128,541
Difference:	\$23,577

### **Legal issues:**

No legal issues at this time.

**Other issues:**

None.

**Previously presented or discussed:**

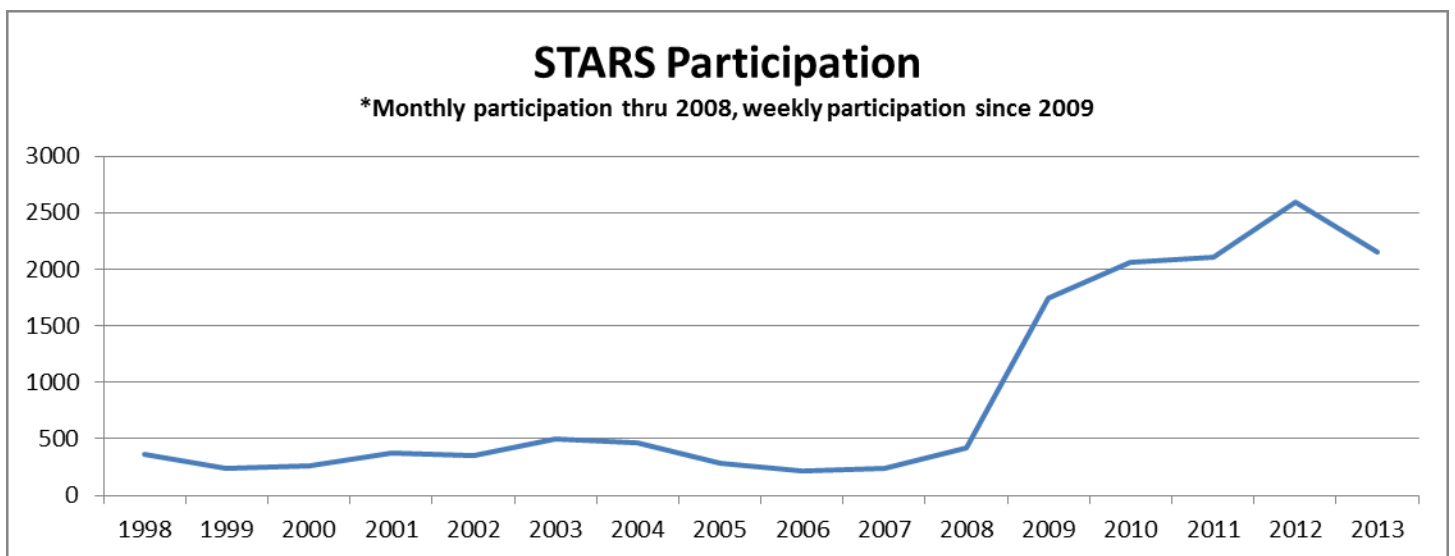
The fees and charges for 2014 were presented to City Council in November. There is flexibility within those approved rates to modify the STARS program up or down.

**Attachments:**

STARS information sheet with timeline.

## STARS Information

The STARS program (Summer Time Arts and Recreation for Students) was developed to provide positive summertime activities and ease the transition for kids back to the classroom after summer break was over. Thanks to continued and ongoing demand from the community for more programming, STARS has expanded to nine weeks during the summer with all-day coverage, Monday through Friday. At its inception, the program had 300 participants for the entire summer. The program now averages 215 participants per week. Four School District 51 sites are used for the program; however, the program's structure is that of a camp so participants are routinely dropped-off and picked-up at other community venues and participants will leave the site for field trips and outdoor activities. STARS staff is required to complete a minimum of 25 hours (State of Colorado only requires 15 hours) before they are allowed to work. This training includes medical administration, CPR, First Aid, how to recognize child abuse, customer service training, universal precautions, difficult customers, sensor integration training, and a variety of additional trainings. These training allow the STARS staff to be prepared and ready to handle children that need additional support or assistance to be successful in the STARS camp. Some examples of children that have needed some additional support are the many foster children that attend STARS with the 50% scholarship that is provided or children that have been unsuccessful at other camps or daycares. We take pride in making STARS their final stop by working with each child on an individual basis adapting the camp setting to fit their needs.



### Program Timeline

1997 – The STARS program was developed thanks to several teachers in the valley who recognized the need for students to be involved in positive summertime activities. Program began as a two day a week program at two school sites, East and Orchard Mesa, from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Program was available for participants going into 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

2004 – State of Colorado required licensing as a “child care center”. Expanded times to 9:00am – 3:00pm.

2007 – Expanded the current program to four sites (added Pear Park and Wingate). Expanded grades to include 2<sup>nd</sup> grade participants.

2008 – Expanded times to 8:00am – 5:00pm. Expanded grades to include 1<sup>st</sup> grade participants.

2009 – Changed format of program to five days a week with weekly fee of \$55. Expanded times to 7:30am – 5:30pm. Received funding from the Colorado National Monument (grant funded) to transport participants to the Monument for weekly visits from East Middle School and Orchard Mesa Middle School.

2010 – Weekly fee increased to \$60.

2011 – Weekly fee increase to \$69. Tween Camp for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders was added. Counselor in Training program was added for ages 14-18.

2012 – During the summer of 2012, staff received a concern from a local childcare provider, Mrs. Stephanie McGuire, indicating direct competition with local daycares. A meeting was conducted to address her concerns and was attended by Rob Schoeber, two Recreation staff members, and Councilman Sam Susuras. Shortly into the discussion, Mrs. McGuire threatened legal action, at which time the City indicated that further discussions would have to take place between attorneys. No further contact was made by Mrs. McGuire that year.

2013 – Weekly fee increased to \$79. August 2013, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) wrote a letter of support to City Council supporting the STARS programs and the current fee of \$79 per week. A petition was received from Stephanie McGuire the owner of Step by Step Preschool and five other local child care centers petitioning the City to charge \$125 a week.

2014 – State of Colorado changed its designation of STARS to “Day Camp” instead of a “school-age child care center”. A “Day camp” is a school-age child care program which operates at least four hours a day primarily during one season of the year, and during school vacation periods for children between five and eighteen years of age.

## Success Stories and Compliments

### *2011 Email from Parent*

Would like to say your efforts in developing a fun and educational schedule for all the Stars 'campers' has not gone unnoticed. Really appreciate the effort yourself and the extended onsite staff have taken the Stars experiences to new levels of excellence. Your not only providing a very much needed community service but a memorable (and physically exhausting) experience for my children. My spouse and I chuckle at the end of the day when the kids self submit themselves to bed without parental coaxing. At that point, you know it has been a good day.

## Scholarships

Parks and Recreation offers scholarships for most youth recreation programs. 2014 qualifications include proof of food stamps, foster care, or TANF benefits. A sliding scale is also available based on tax returns or specific cases of hardship expressed by a family. In 2013, a total of 82 STARS participants took advantage of the scholarship program equating to 20% of the summer's totals registrations and \$14,666 in scholarships granted. In year's past, scholarships resulted in reduced revenue for the specific recreation program. Due to a software conversion in 2014, scholarships will now have a specific line item in the Recreation Division for scholarship expense keeping program revenues "whole".

## City of Fruita Dinomites Camp

Dinomites began in 2012 with the opening of the Fruita Community Center. The program accepts a maximum of 25 participants per week; however, the average is 18. The 2012 fee was \$90 per week. The Dinomites camp is located directly across the street from a private daycare. Because of this close proximity, the City of Fruita increased the weekly fee to \$125 a week in 2013.

### *2012 Email from Parent*

Wanted to send you and the rest of the Stars team a sincere thank you. Realizing managing all these children is not an easy task and the team did an excellent job. I look at success of a program by the comments of my friends and family who do not reside in the grand valley. When they hear of the program and all the activities my children experience over the summer, they are envious their local government doesn't supply a similar service.

### *2012 Email from Parent*

I just wanted to say thank you very much for the fantastic programming and staff that you had for the Wingate Stars program this summer. Hunter has not attended the Stars program prior to this year and I was nervous about what to expect. He not only had a great experience with the program, but the care that the counselors gave to the children was outstanding. I felt like they took the time to know each child individually and helped them to grow at their own rate. That personalized care was an unexpected surprise.

I plan to have Hunter attend next summer and during the year for school breaks. This is a great option for working families and I really appreciate the staff's TLC of the children!

### *2013 Email from Parent*

I just wanted to tell you how impressed I was with your staff last week with the situation that occurred between Brenna, Rayna & that boy Nick. Your staff was right on top of things and kept me informed throughout the day as events were happening. I want to commend them for keeping the children safe. It is always a parent's main concern when they leave their child in someone's care that they can be sure of their safety. I have been sending Brenna to camp with you (GJ Parks & Rec) for 4 years, including this year, and have always felt that it was a stand out program. The actions of Ryan and Bree solidify my faith in your staff and your camp. Thank you Emily for having an excellent staff to care for the children we parents entrust to you. I know that Heather was on vacation last week, but I hope that you will let her know that I am thankful her counselors were well trained.

### *2013 Email from Parent*

I just wanted to give a BIG Thank You to Emily Wright and all the instructors at the STARS camps. (especially the OM staff) With the Summer winding down I thought this would be a good time to applaud you all. The STARS programs has so many activities that the kids love - My son looks forward to going everyday! Thank you again for such a great Summer!

## **Summary and Recommendations**

Staff recommends a continued annual review of the STARS program fee, similar to how the Recreation Division currently operates with all recreation programs. The current fee allows for recovery of 100% of direct program costs and all direct program scholarships. A \$5 increase is recommended for 2014 to account for transaction fees to be incurred with the new software system. The recommended fee for 2014 is \$84 per week.



Date: 12-10-13

Author: Greg Moberg

Title/ Phone Ext: Planning

Supervisor/4023

Proposed Meeting Date:

December 16, 2013

## **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT WORKSHOP**

Attach W-2

**Topic:** Discuss the Form Based Zone Districts Found in the Grand Junction Municipal Code and Outline Several Changes Proposed to these Zone Districts.

**Staff (Name & Title):** Tim Moore, Deputy City Manager  
Greg Moberg, Planning Supervisor

### **Summary:**

Staff will discuss the current Form Based Zone Districts found in the Grand Junction Municipal Code and discuss several changes proposed for these Zoning Districts. These proposed changes are expected to eliminate barriers and clean up language allowing for more flexibility in the development of mixed use projects.

### **Background, Analysis and Options:**

Form Based Zone Districts were added to the Grand Junction Municipal Code shortly after the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in 2010 and were included to create zone districts that could implement several new mixed use designations in the Comprehensive Plan. Currently, mixed use buildings are common to the downtown area where office and retail uses happen on the ground floor and residential uses can be found on the upper stories of the same building. This blend of uses was not allowed as part of the previous Code outside the downtown area. The Comprehensive Plan anticipated this same concept occurring in other parts of the community and identified in the Comprehensive Plan as future Neighborhood Centers, Village Centers, Downtown Mixed Use, and Mixed Use Opportunity Corridors.

There are three mixed use form districts in the Code; Mixed Use Residential, Mixed Use General, and Mixed Use Shopfront. Within the three types of form districts, five building types are allowed: Shopfront, General, Apartment, Townhouse and Civic.

City Staff and the development community have identified a number of restrictions with the mixed use form districts in the Code and have proposed several amendments to Section 21.03.090 that are intended to remove these restrictions thereby allowing mixed use developments to occur throughout Mixed Use Opportunity Corridors. In addition, modifications have also been included that clarify landscaping requirements and allow awnings to be placed above public right-of-way.

### **Board or Committee Recommendation:**

The Planning Commission considered these proposed amendments to the Code and recommended approval of the proposed amendments at their June 25, 2013 meeting.

**Financial Impact/Budget:**

None.

**Legal issues:**

The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the proposed amendments.

**Other issues:**

None.

**Previously presented or discussed:**

No.

**Attachments:**

None