

**GRAND JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

MARCH 1, 2004

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, March 1, 2004 at 7:01 p.m. in the Mesa Mall Community Room at the Mesa Mall to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Bruce Hill, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer and President of the Council Jim Spehar. City Youth Council members present were Council Chair Heather Ahuero, Parliamentarian Drew Creasman, Caitlin Donohue, Lisa Truong, Drew Bradley, Lacy Clayton, Brian Conklin, Cole Sheldon, and Mackenzie Johnston.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **DISCUSSION WITH YOUTH COUNCIL:** The City Council and the City Youth Council discussed the following:
 - Update on Youth Council Activities – Chair Ahuero advised that the CYC met with the School Board recently and had a good dialogue. Seth Hoffman, Management Intern, noted that the School Board was impressed with the CYC so far.
 - Quarterly Meetings - The Youth Council was very receptive to City Council's suggestion that the two groups meet on a regular basis and discussed with Council the options for having regular meetings. The Council suggested 4 times per year, at times other than summer, and as long as the CYC was willing to sit through other business, regular meetings will be scheduled. It was left to Staff to get those scheduled.
 - City Council Representation - The Youth Council would like to discuss the possibility of having a City Councilmember attend each of their meetings. Councilmember Bill McCurry volunteered to attend as did Councilmember Butler. City Manager Arnold suggested that the CYC meetings be included on the Council's overall calendar so that any of them available can also attend.
 - Boys and Girls Club - Mark Messenbaugh, a representative from the Boys and Girls Club and the Attorney General's office, presented to the Youth Council at their February 12th meeting a proposal for creation of such a club. The Youth Council was generally supportive of the ideas presented but identified a couple of concerns. One was that some CYC members felt that the target group for the Boys and Girls Club should be younger (elementary age perhaps) as a preventative measure and that the activities identified are not fitting for youth this day and age.

Council President Spehar suggested to CYC members that the Council wants to encourage the CYC to bring ideas to Council and cautioned them against focusing in on a single answer but rather address an identified need in a variety of ways. Councilmember Enos-Martinez suggested the CYC investigate how they could be involved in the renovation of the old

Riverside School. City Manager Arnold suggested the CYC could serve in an advisory capacity for CDBG applications that are youth oriented and for them to look for grant opportunities/corporate sponsorships that could have affect on youth. Another opportunity for Youth Council participation is to meet the request for appointment of a representative to attend Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings.

Councilmember Hill commended the students noting that they are setting the foundation for future Youth Councils and although it may seem that they are spending time figuring out the direction they want to go, it is important that they do that for the future of the organization.

- Legislative Activities - The Youth Council has had several discussions about state legislation that affects teenagers, for example the driving age proposal and pledge of allegiance legislation. The CYC wanted to know if it was acceptable for them to publish their opinions on upcoming legislation. Council President Spehar responded that the CYC can certainly do that, making it clear that it is the opinion of the Youth Council and being aware that the City Council may well have a different opinion. Councilmember Butler noted that SB-94 should be a piece of legislation that the CYC looks at as it may affect funding to youth organizations such as Partners.

Council suggested that there may be an opportunity for the CYC to be heard by legislators on these issues in their off-session months of September through December.

Along those same lines, the Council would like to be kept up on CYC meetings and asked that their minutes be distributed to Council.

- Areas the City Can Better Serve Youth - The Youth Council would like to discuss this topic in light of the City Council's recent Strategic Plan update. Council President Spehar suggested that the CYC represent the 400 to 500 students identified as homeless in the last Housing Summit.
- Recruitment Plan – CYC members advised that they will start recruitment for next year's Council in the spring and about one-half of the members will be replaced. That will create two year staggered terms. Council encouraged the members to keep diversity on the CYC and to possibly include a Councilmember in the interview process.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Representative – Since the PRAB meets from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm, scheduling may be an issue. Council President Spehar suggested an appointee and an alternate.
- Youth Conference in Greeley – It was suggested that Council sponsor the Youth Council's attendance at the Youth Conference in Greeley. There was also a suggestion that the CYC be encouraged and assisted in attending a day of the CML Conference in Steamboat Springs that is dedicated to youth topics.

- Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. – Drew Creasman advised that he is going to attend a 10-day leadership conference in D.C. this summer and he encouraged others to attend. He also said the Mike Miles is running for the Senate in 2004 and he will be at Borders in Grand Junction on Thursday. Drew encouraged anyone who will be of age to get registered to vote for the November election. Council suggested the CYC contact the Mesa County Elections Division for assistance in registering students to vote.

Action summary: The Council praised the CYC for their work and encouraged their efforts. Councilmembers McCurry and Butler will regularly attend the CYC meetings and their meetings will be included on the Council calendar. CYC efforts will be supported by Council in working with the organizers of the Boys & Girls Club, involvement in the Riverside School renovation and advisors on Youth Programs applying for CDBG funding. City Staff will work the Youth Council on selection of a representative for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. CYC is encouraged to be involved and express their opinion on legislative activities involving youth issues. The Council and City Staff will participate and assist in interviews for next year's CYC members. City Council will meet with the CYC regularly to keep lines of communication open.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.