

**GRAND JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

MARCH 15, 2004

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 7:10 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Bruce Hill, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer and President of the Council Jim Spehar. Councilmember Cindy Enos-Martinez was absent.

City Manager Kelly Arnold introduced new city employees.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **WINGATE PARK MASTER PLAN:** Parks & Recreation Director Joe Stevens introduced the design team from ACC. He then reviewed the proposed Master Plan for Wingate Park via a Power Point presentation. The site is around 5 acres. Councilmember Hill confirmed that the property highlighted for the park site is owned by the City of Grand Junction. Mr. Stevens said it is and noted the topography will create a good program for the park. The Parks Department had a number of meetings with the neighborhood and received many comments. There was a series of three meetings. The January meeting had around 80 people in attendance. There were mailers and a website for comments. The biggest concern was lighting at the park. Mr. Stevens advised that minimal light for security purposes is planned. There are no restrooms, tennis courts or parking being planned but these amenities may be added if additional funds are identified. Size-wise this park is twice the size of the Paradise Hills Park.

The Parks Department would like to go forward with entering into an agreement with the School District to incorporate the property around the school into the park plan. In exchange, the City will maintain the entire site. That will increase the size of the park to seven acres. An additional play area for toddlers is planned. Mr. Stevens outlined the rest of the areas planned for the park site including the planting of native plants which can be used for outdoor lab work at the school. The school parking lot is currently closed during non-school hours but plans are being worked on to keep it open during park hours.

Wes Horner of ACC, the contractor, along with Tom Rolland of Rolland Engineering and Laura Kirk of DHM in Carbondale are members of the design team. This team has worked together before. Mr. Horner urged the Council to allow the planning to go forward soon so that the construction can begin as soon as school is out. Completion probably won't be until October.

Councilmember Kirtland asked if there will be a construction trailer on site so if neighbors have questions, they can find someone to talk to. Mr. Horner said yes.

Mr. Stevens advised that Staff is working on the intergovernmental agreement with the School District and plan to get it to Council in April or May.

Councilmember Hill asked if this plan will be presented to the neighborhood. Mr. Stevens said this plan was presented at the last meeting where there were 80 people present. The neighborhood is aware that tennis courts and restrooms will not happen without the GOCO funding. The soil testing has not been done yet and may affect the budget.

Councilmember Hill asked about the size of the new parking lot. Mr. Stevens said big enough for 12 to 15 cars. Councilmember Hill also asked about the proximity of the two play areas. Mr. Stevens said that the new play area had to be on city-owned property for the grant application but that could change.

Councilmember Kirtland inquired about buffering to the residential areas. Mr. Stevens said the neighborhood is divided on how much and what type of buffering it wants. Councilmember Kirtland asked about crosswalks for children coming from the subdivision across the street. Mr. Stevens said those are in place.

Council President Spehar confirmed that the intergovernmental agreement will proceed regardless of grant funding. Mr. Stevens said yes. Upon further questioning, Staff expressed confidence that the IGA will go forward with the School District.

Action summary: The Council thanked Mr. Stevens for the presentation and told him to go forward.

2. **Homeless Shelter Funding:** Council President Spehar expressed the Homeward Bound Board of Directors has indicated that their funding is deficient and they will not be able to stay open until April. They are looking for \$5,000 to \$10,000 in assistance. Although the City does not usually provide operating funds, there is a sense of urgency. The population is 80% to 90% families and community members and not a significant number of panhandlers using the shelter.

Councilmember Butler supported granting the request.

Councilmember Kirtland supported the Council making such a pledge and showing the community its support.

Councilmember Palmer resisted setting a precedent for funding operations, even on a one time basis.

Councilmember Hill asked if there is a mechanism to address these types of requests. Council President Spehar said three years ago the Council said it would entertain such requests from contingency. There have been times when Council will pay fees for facilities from their contingency funds.

Councilmember Hill suggested that at some point a policy should be discussed to address these types of requests.

Councilmember Hill asked if the shelter usually closes in April. Council President Spehar said not completely, they continue with the veterans program but fall through April is their "season".

Action summary: The City Council decided to participate in an amount of \$10,000 out of contingency funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.