

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
August 10, 2015 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 5:00 p.m. in the Fire Administration Training Room

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

City Council Members present: All

Staff present: Moore, Shaver, Lanning, Schoeber, Wieland, Watkins, Hendricks, and Tuin

Also: Dave Grossman, Jen Stoll, Richard Swingle, and Robin Brown

Agenda Topic 1. Grand Junction Off-Road Event Follow-up and Request for Continued City Support

Dave Grossman, EPIC Rides, provided an overview of the 2015 Grand Junction Off-Road event. He described the growth the event experienced this year, the target market, the activities of the participants, and their \$628,000 contribution towards taxable revenue into the local economy. The plan is to grow the event by 20% each year with a cap of 2,000 riders. The free concert series contributed to the success of the event. Mr. Grossman said his request is the same for 2016 with a 5% increase next year if they meet their 20% increase in participants, with an automatic renewal. The proposal is to the City of Grand Junction. Mr. Grossman categorized the City support as a host city sponsorship. The request is \$40,000 from the City plus an additional \$10,000 of in-kind services. This includes the participation of the Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB), the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP), which has already pledged \$5,000. Mr. Grossman said there are only two other events like this in Colorado.

The general consensus was that Council is in support of this event and are glad the City will not have to compete for this event. They will review the request during budget development. It was noted that an automatic renewal was not an option.

Agenda Topic 2. Inspire Initiative Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Grant

Parks and Recreation Director Rob Schoeber provided the background on the GOCO grants and how they are funded. He introduced this new grant program opportunity which has a different focus.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Traci Wieland reviewed the overall vision of the Inspire Initiative grant. This is a pilot program for up to five communities in the first year with up to ten additional communities being added in the second and third years. The goal is to get kids to spend more time outdoors. There has been over \$25 million set aside for the program which

includes planning and implementation of this new program. Ms. Wieland reviewed the three project requirements; places, programs, and pathways. The proposals are due by August 26, 2015 and the GOCO Board will award the grants in October. Ms. Wieland described the additional pieces of the program, the partners in the valley, and how the Parks and Recreation Department believes this program will work. The GOCO Inspire Initiative was discussed at the August 6, 2015 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting with the Board's support. Ms. Wieland advised that the grant requires a 25% match which can be 10% cash and the rest in-kind. The Level 1 opportunity is available for five communities at \$100,000 and allows a ten month planning time frame. Level 2 is at a level of \$25,000-\$75,000 and allows an eighteen month planning time frame. Implementation grants at Level 1 are \$1 million to \$5 million. Several partners have already committed to the planning stage.

Different options were discussed for the grant. Council was supportive of Staff applying for the grant.

Agenda Topic 3. City Emergency Operations Plan

Gus Hendricks, Emergency Manager, introduced himself and explained how the City of Grand Junction Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) got started. Mr. Hendricks said he and City Attorney Shaver are looking for direction on whether to adopt this plan by ordinance or resolution.

Mr. Hendricks went through the purpose of the Plan which is to minimize the loss of life and property if there is a disaster. Mr. Hendricks described the actions that would take place during and after an emergency. The Plan provides for a joint effort with the County Emergency Manager and the State if needed. Mr. Hendricks explained the concept of operations, the disaster declaration which allows the City to bring in additional resources, and the delegation of authority. The ultimate goal in managing a disaster is to bring things back to normalcy. Adoption of this Plan will assign each department roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency. He explained a declaration of disaster and how he sees it working with departments and staff. Once adopted training will be provided by Mr. Hendricks including awareness level training for the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Hendricks said the EOP defines specific activities before, during, and after a disaster happens.

There was discussion on whether to adopt the plan by ordinance, giving it the effect of law, or by resolution, making it a policy. Council also discussed a review of the Plan every three years. Councilmembers wanted time to consider the pros and cons of an ordinance versus resolution but did want to make sure adoption of the Plan moves forward.

Agenda Item 4. SAFER Grant and DOLA Planning Grant

Fire Chief Ken Watkins presented the update on the SAFER grant and a new DOLA grant. The SAFER grant was approved by Council in March which authorized the application for the grant. The Fire Department was awarded the grant in July. This grant is intended to be used to hire back laid off or impending laid off firefighters. The priority here is to replace vacated positions.

Chief Watkins provided the background of the salary, benefits, and the positions. This will return the staffing to 2014 levels. Applications will be accepted from outside and inside the organization. Chief Watkins explained how long it takes to get through the hiring and training process. The training academy is scheduled to start in January 2016.

The other is a DOLA grant opportunity to conduct a feasibility study for a joint fire station at the airport. There have been conversations with the Airport Board as to a joint facility. Chief Watkins went over the scope of the feasibility study for a joint use including operation, capital considerations, funding, and cost savings. The grant for the project is not to exceed \$50,000. There would be a \$25,000 match (\$12,500 each from the City and the Airport Board). The Airport Board is meeting on the August 18th to review the request.

There was discussion on the type of consultant that would be hired to do the study. Chief Watkins said there are several and they also have information from Manhattan, KS which has a similar situation. Airport Staff is also working on looking into this information.

Chief Watkins said this has been talked about for years and this is a good first step to see if the feasibility of this co-location in the north part of town would even work.

Council agreed to move forward with the grant for the study.

Agenda Item 5. Other Business

Interim City Manager (ICM) Moore introduced a request from the Foundation for Cultural Exchange for their 10th anniversary celebration of a relationship that was created with El Espino, a community in El Salvador, as a Sister City with Grand Junction. They are looking for \$2,500 for a celebration out in front of City Hall along with the Mayor reading a proclamation on September 16th at 5:30 p.m. It was the consensus of the City Council to support the request.

Agenda Item 6. Board Reports

Councilmember McArthur clarified an issue; the City has no jurisdiction over the Drainage Authority. He is asking for a letter to get legislative support to change the governance of the Drainage District.

ICM Moore said it could be discussed at the next City/County Meeting on August 19th. ICM Moore will call the County Manager to get this on the agenda.

Councilmember Traylor Smith said she and Kristi Pollard with Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) attended, along with Economic Development and Site Selectors, a Logistics Conference. Councilmember Traylor Smith said there were numerous good contacts made between the two of them; and they were able to meet with six different selectors.

Councilmember Chazen asked if ICM Moore knew what happened with the phone interviews for the DDA Director recruitment. ICM Moore said he has not received any feedback but will be meeting on it the following day.

Adjourn

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015**

**WORKSHOP, 5:00 P.M.
FIRE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TRAINING ROOM
555 UTE AVENUE**

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

1. **Grand Junction Off-Road Event Follow-up and Request for Continued City Support:** The 3rd Annual Grand Junction Off-Road and Downtown Art + Music Festival saw significant growth and provides unique marketing of Grand Junction to a national and global audience positioning the community as a leading outdoor recreation destination. Epic Rides is seeking forty thousand dollars in host community fees and event support as they grow the event to two thousand participants.
2. **Inspire Initiative GOCO Grant:** Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has launched a new initiative as part of their five-year strategy aimed at inspiring Coloradans, particularly kids, to appreciate, enjoy, and take care of the great outdoors. This Inspire Initiative will pilot in up to five communities in the first year and up to ten additional communities will be added in the second and third years for a total of 15 communities. **Attachment**
3. **City Emergency Operations Plan:** The City's Emergency Operations Plan is an all-hazards plan that provides the structure and mechanisms for local and regional level policy and operational coordination for incident management. This Emergency Operations Plan provides guidance to help minimize loss of life, prevent injury, protect property, safeguard the environment, and preserve the local economy in the event of a major emergency. **Attachment**
4. **SAFER Grant and DOLA Planning Grant:** Fire Chief Ken Watkins will update the City Council on the awarded SAFER grant for firefighter staffing and present an opportunity for a planning grant through the Department of Local Affairs for a north fire station. **Attachment**
5. **Other Business**
Request to Sponsor Cultural Exchange Celebration **Attachment**
6. **Board Reports**