



**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2017**

**PRE-MEETING (DINNER) 5:00 P.M. ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
WORKSHOP, 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET**

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

1. Discussion Topics

- a. Update and Request for a Mini Grant for a Feasibility Study for a Community and Recreation Center
- b. Foreign Trade Zone Update
- c. Update from Riverfront Commission including Rebranding, Revenue Generating Programs and e-Bikes on Trails

2. Next Workshop Topics

3. Other Business



Grand Junction City Council

Workshop Session

Item #1.a.

Meeting Date: June 5, 2017

Presented By: PLACE (People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment)

Department: Parks and Recreation

Submitted By: Rob Schoeber, Parks and Recreation Department Director

Information

SUBJECT:

Update and Request for a Mini Grant for a Feasibility Study for a Community and Recreation Center

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Update from People for Local Activities & Community Enrichment (PLACE) which is . This active community group is requesting approval for the City to apply for a mini grant through the Department of Local Affairs to help fund a feasibility study for a community and recreation center.

PLACE is a grass roots community group and has been meeting regularly since 2015. The primary focus of the group is to partner with the City of Grand Junction to create an affordable, accessible community and recreation center that would be the heart of wellness and social connection in the City and surrounding areas. The first phase of the community campaign is underway and addresses the risks of the proposed work. PLACE engaged in numerous local activities and has created a strong base of community support. The group has circulated a petition of support for a community center and has accumulated over 2,000 signatures to date. The second phase involves moving forward with a feasibility study to provide a formalized assessment of community needs, site analysis designs, amenities and costs.

The projected cost of the feasibility study is \$50,000. Thus far, the PLACE group has been approved for two grants for this study. Rocky Mountain Health Foundation has approved \$5,000, while the Colorado Health Foundation has recently approved \$20,000. The awards from both Foundations are contingent upon receipt of DOLA funding in the amount of \$25,000.

BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:

People for Local Activities & Community Enrichment (PLACE) has been working since 2015 to create public support and awareness for a community and recreation center in Grand Junction. The group has been involved in over 40 local activities including house meetings, focus groups, informational presentations and special events. They have also worked closely with the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The initial phase of their campaign has been focused in increasing public support through education, public input, and the circulation of local petitions. An online survey has garnered over 750 local comments, while over 2,000 signatures have been collected on petitions in support of a community and recreation center. The committee has cited several benefits of a community center including healthier lifestyles, increased social interactions, improved tourism and economic growth. The group has also received numerous letters of support from local residents, businesses and organizations in support of a community center.

Since 2000, the surrounding communities of Montrose, Delta, Fruita and Battlement Mesa have undertaken successful community efforts to design and construct local community centers. While these projects had experienced varying levels of resistance in the initial stages, they have largely become the 'jewels' of their communities and are continually used in recruitment efforts for young families, professional workers and new businesses.

If approved, the feasibility study would provide assessments a local community center from a variety of perspectives including:

Market analysis: This is a demographics survey of our community. Ages, genders, average income, service area.

Programming: What types of recreational amenities and programs would be successful in a community center, and how do existing programs fit into the new structure.

Building design: Programming information will be utilized to establish a building design. This step will also involve extensive community outreach.

Governance: How will the center operations be structured and what potential partnerships may exist into the future (i.e. school district, home schools, private sector, etc.).

Site evaluations: What are the best locations for a community center? Is there existing property available? Is there ability to expand into the future? How is access and accessibility for the users?

Operations proforma: What are the anticipated revenues vs. expenses? What are the various methods of generating revenues and what is the community's ability to pay? How do existing programs and staff within our department factor into the new facility structure?

The proposed feasibility study is estimated to cost \$50,000. Two Foundations have approved grant requests for the study including the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation –\$5,000, and the Colorado Health Foundation - \$20,000. Both grants are contingent on a successful DOLA grant in the amount of \$25,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Feasibility Study: \$50,000

Colorado Health Foundation: \$20,000

Rocky Mountain Health Foundation: \$5,000

Proposed DOLA Grant Request: \$25,000

There are no City funds requested for this study.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Council direction on partnering with the PLACE group to apply for a DOLA grant for \$25,000.

Attachments

1. PLACE Information Packet



Information Packet for Grand Junction City Councilors

City Council Workshop: June 5, 2017

Table of Contents

Introduction and Summary	3
Benefits of a Community & Recreation Center	3
Description of Campaign Plan	3
Endorsements (24 pages)	5
Organization information	6
History and Rationale	6
Notes from Neighboring Community & Recreation Centers + Additional Feedback	8
Annotated Research by Topic	
Economic Health	11
Community Health	13
Mental Health	16
Physical Health	18

Introduction & Summary

PLACE (People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment) is seeking a partnership with the city of Grand Junction to study the feasibility of a community & recreation center as the heart of wellness and social connection in the city of Grand Junction. Following nearly two years of data collection & building community support for the idea, PLACE's initial goal is to secure a partnership with the City of Grand Junction in commissioning a feasibility study. PLACE has secured grant funding to pay for one half of a feasibility study, and seeks a partnership with the city to submit an application for a DOLA matching grant for the other half. Longer term goals include utilizing data from the feasibility study to study options for the construction of a community & recreation center.

Benefits of a community & recreation center

PLACE believes that a community & recreation center offers resources beyond recreation. The idea that a community & recreation center can benefit the economic, physical and mental health problems that Grand Junction faces is well represented in the literature. In one paper, 11 Benefits of a Community Recreation Center, it is noted that while proximity to a recreational facility increases participation in physical activity and access to exercise and stress reduction to help people stay healthier longer, there are other advantages. Families participating together means improved parent-child relationships. Property values increase, as people love going to recreation centers and are willing to pay more to have access to one. Tourism increases because recreation centers can hold large tournaments that bring people from neighboring states. Local businesses and recreation centers see an increase in revenue during these large events. This economic growth helps attract new businesses and professionals. Additionally, children are kept busy and out of empty homes while parents are working, and summer programs further physical and mental growth in kids. Juvenile criminal rates are reduced up to 25% when a recreation center is available to adolescents. Public safety is improved by classes on CPR and first aid, and when the community & recreation center is seen as a safe haven.

Description of Campaign Plan

PLACE developed goals, strategies and a campaign plan to realize a community & recreation center divided into three phases:

- Phase I (Community Engagement): Assess citizen interest, build popular support, complete feasibility study (2015 - 2017)
- Phase II (Reporting & Construction Approval): Launch campaign to obtain approval for construction of community & recreation center (2018)
- Phase III (Implementation): Capital fundraising and construction (2018-2019)

The first half of Phase I of this grassroots campaign is underway and addresses the risks of this proposed work. An important lesson learned from the leaders of previous attempts was the realization that they had built no groundswell of community support. Citizen ownership of the planning process, as well as development of strong partnerships with community entities, are therefore primary goals of the PLACE Campaign. To date, PLACE has undertaken 40 activities to increase public awareness and support, while gaining citizen input. These include house meetings, focus groups, informational presentations, and tabling at events that have stimulated interest in a community & recreation center across a wide range of people, organizations and public officials. The group has circulated a petition of support for the community & recreation center that has been signed by over 2157 citizens to date. An online survey has garnered 758 responses, and continues to collect community feedback. PLACE runs a Facebook page that records the increasing media attention and the comments that its efforts are generating. Following the recent election April, PLACE is proud to have made the community & recreation center a central campaign issue, and one that continues to be at the fore of many resident's minds.

The goals of the second half of Phase I are to commission a feasibility study and to increase public awareness and support. The feasibility study will provide a formalized assessment of community needs, site analysis, designs, amenities and costs. PLACE has worked closely with the Parks and Recreation Department in discussions about the center, and is requesting that the City submit a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) planning grant application on behalf of PLACE to match other secured funding. If the City Council grants this request and is successful in the DOLA application, the City will take the lead in securing a firm to complete the feasibility study with the collaboration of PLACE and the general community, as with the 2014 Matchett Park master plan. As the City will ultimately finance, build and operate the center, its full involvement and participation is essential; our grassroots mobilizing builds community buy-in and pride, creating the political will for the community & recreation center.

Endorsements (24 pages)



April 24, 2017

Members of the Grand Junction City Council

c/o: Greg Caton
City Manager
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

Dear Council Members,


I am writing you today to lend my support of the current effort to bring the Community Recreation Center one step closer through a feasibility study that the PLACE group is putting before Council for funding consideration. Many volunteers continue to be passionate about this need, spending much time, energy and resources to help Grand Junction be a place we can be proud of for children. The effort is impressive.

First, I want to speak as an employer. HopeWest is currently poised to add 200 jobs over the next five years as part of our organization's expansion into PACE and other programs to support our seniors. Many of these new employees will be nurses and physicians. I have readily learned through our past recruitment efforts that a positive environment to raise children is foremost on every candidate's mind. Unfortunately, we do not offer much competitively in this area. Our schools lack in their rankings -- as do their funding and we have very little to offer in terms of a place for kids to be after school and on weekends. I believe that if we do nothing to improve both our schools and recreation opportunities for children, we will have great difficulty recruiting jobs, as well as new employers to our City.

Personally, having raised three children here as a single parent, I can share that driving 45 minutes at 4:30 am to Orchard Mesa School from 27 and H Road (leaving grade school children unattended 90 minutes) to take my son to swimming practice was a one year only commitment. I believe that particularly late grade school and junior high age children in our community are truly starving for positive places to grow, learn and experience athletic sports. Today, I have a 10-year-old grandchild here and I am aware of our current situation, and do not feel we have made very much progress in the past twenty-five years.

It is easy on the service to think this Recreation Center is a "nicety" that only a few will benefit from. I could not disagree more. From grade school to seniors our community needs a place to exercise besides outdoor facilities. The closure of the St. Mary's Life Center impacted many seniors who accessed an affordable option. There is always an argument for the private sector to solve these issues, and true, we do have some great private options for exercise. However, these endeavors do not organize activities that are focused on kids building relationships with adults like a Community Center will.

It truly is time. This is important—yes for our health, our physical health and mental health. But it is also critical to growing our local economy in a competitive environment.



Christy Whitney
President/CEO HopeWest



Dedicated to profoundly changing the way our community experiences serious illness, aging and grief one family at a time.

Hispanic Affairs Project



300 N. Cascade Ave, Suite C-4, Montrose CO 81401
www.hapgj.org (970) 249.4115

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 18, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a **Community & Recreation Center** to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), we share the same values and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

The Hispanic Affairs Project is a regional organization working with minority groups in the Grand Valley for over 10 years. We believe that a Recreation Center is critical to bring our community together as we experimented in many other cities across the state recently. We were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center, such as creating:

- A space for immigrant integration for minority groups in the Valley
- A place to promote cultural diversity and cultural understanding in our community.
- An accessible and affordable center that can serve citizens across social, economic and physical barriers.
- An intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families.

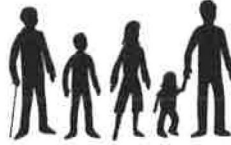
I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more integrated and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and organizations. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Perez, ED
ricardo@hapgj.org
970.417.6127 (cell)

Primary Care Partners



Your partners in health

3150 N 12th St. Grand Junction, CO 81506 • PO Box 10700 Grand Junction, CO 81502

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 2nd, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

Primary Care Partners stands in strong support of the efforts to bring a community & recreation center to Grand Junction. The enthusiasm, vision, and leadership of the organizing committee (PLACE) working on behalf of this endeavor is impressive.

Our organization, made of medical practices that have been part of this community for over 40 years, understands the importance of community support for population health. In fact, as evidenced by years of research, the health of a community is more often determined by social determinants of health rather than the high tech applications of modern health care delivery.

Sense of community matters in health care. Recreational and social opportunities matter. And, population health matters to the overall health and prosperity of a city.

Here at Primary Care Partners, we care for thousands of Grand Junction's citizens. We witness the devastating effects of poor health habits and the amazing benefits that come with healthy living. At the same time, many of our patients can't afford a monthly membership to a gym or would like the additional social outlets as envisioned via a community and recreation center.

Indeed, the healthy behaviors and opportunities that our community needs can't be bottled up and purchased at a pharmacy.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive community & recreation center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a community & recreation center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more connected, and healthier Grand Junction benefits the people and businesses of our fine city. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a community & recreation center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Pramenko M.D.
Executive Director
Primary Care Partners



Creating Opportunities. Enriching Lives.

May 10, 2017

Greg Caton, City Manager
Attn: Grand Junction City Council
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort of evaluating the possibilities of creating a Community & Recreation Center in Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), their enthusiasm and vision was impressive, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

Hilltop has a proud history of meeting the needs of our community for over 65 years. We put people first and give them the tools and support they need to face life's challenges. Hilltop's wide-ranging programs offer real world solutions designed to give people of all ages and abilities a chance at long-lasting success. We have seen first-hand the benefits of having a center which brings the community together to meet, move, learn and play. A community and recreation center has great potential for both the physical and mental health of our community.

In line with our agency mission, we were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center. Creating an accepting and compatible place for seniors, at-risk youth and people with disabilities to connect would significantly enhance their lives and their sense of community.

I appreciate the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding community connectedness, economic development, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Michael Stahl". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

J. Michael Stahl, CEO
Hilltop Community Resources



Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 11, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), I was impressed by their enthusiasm and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

Ariel Clinical Services is proud to be a non-profit that serves hundreds of vulnerable children and adults in our community. The idea of having a center that brings our community together to meet, move, learn and play has great potential for both the physical and mental health of Grand Junction. In line with our business philosophy, we were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center, such as creating: A hub for mental and emotional health programs in collaboration with support service providers in Grand Junction.

- Opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- An avenue for learning that may address tutoring, healthy eating, mental health and healthy life choices.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. I am committed to making Grand Junction Colorado the best community for children and families and believe a community and recreation center brings us a step closer toward that goal. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hobart
CEO

**2938 North Avenue Suite G
Grand Junction CO 81504
Phone: 970.245.1616
Fax: 970.241.8722**

**4660 Wadsworth Blvd
Wheat Ridge CO 80033
Phone: 303.703.9351
Fax: 303.703.4500**

**2145 Academy Circle
Colorado Springs CO 80909
Phone: 719.260.6110
Fax: 719.260.6170**

**Mary Beth and Bernie Buescher
4350 N. Club Court, Unit B
Grand Junction, CO 81506**

May 18, 2017

Greg Caton, City manager
City of Grand Junction
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Members of the City Council, and Manager Caton

We are writing to express our support to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community and Recreation Center to Grand Junction. We are long-time residents of Grand Junction (Bernie was born here), and we own both our home in Grand Junction and commercial property in Grand Junction.

We have met with the organizers for People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE) and have reviewed their research. We support their efforts towards developing a center that can provide multiple beneficial uses for our community. We believe that a Community Center can provide space for health and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and across social, economic and physical barriers.

It was over sixty years ago when the great visionary Jane Jacobs wrote *The Life and Death of the Great American Cities*. But the message lives on: for cities to thrive, it must be possible for families to live, play and work in the same areas. The research is compelling that recreational and social opportunities improve a community, and we believe strongly that a Community and Recreational Center would improve the quality of life in Grand Junction.

Please support a feasibility study for this needed community resource.

Sincerely,

Bernie and Mary Beth Buescher



T — A
P A R T Y
C — O

Date: 5/22/2017

To: Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

From: BIN 707 Foodbar & Tacoparty
Jodi Niernberg, Owner
225 N 5th Street
Grand Junction CO 81501

Dear Greg,

I hope this finds you well. As you know I was one of the many passionate supporters of the recently defeated ballot measure, 2A. Obviously, we don't need to rehash why I felt 2A was a vital economic driver for our community (most were probably tired of hearing from me by the end anyway!) but I would like to briefly talk about what we learned through the campaign.

I spent countless hours working towards the passage of 2A. This included working directly with the public many times. It should come as no surprise that one of our main hurdles, which played a large part in the demise of 2A, was the community's desire for a recreation center. The support behind such a center is extremely strong. As frequently as I was faced with questions and concerns as to whether we should pursue an event center when we did not have a community recreation center, I did not come to this conclusion based solely on my experiences.

Shortly after the election The Daily Sentinel conducted a poll. The poll asked people who voted against 2A why they did so. Forty five percent of those responding indicated that they voted "no" because they would rather have a rec center. The Daily Sentinel was quick to inform that of course, these polls are not scientific or statistically reliable, but they have found polls such as this, conducted on their website generally reflect community-wide opinions.

With that background, I would now like to quickly take a few minutes of your time and let you know why I feel it is important that city council listen to the people of Grand Junction that are passionate for a

BIN YZ

community center, their numbers are significant, growing and they deserve recognition and the right to present.

I was born and raised here in Grand Junction. I am one of eight children. I am sure I don't have to tell it was often a struggle for my mom to keep us all entertained. My parents were transplants from the Pacific Northwest and were used to having community centers and places like the YMCA to enjoy. Having a place that was focused on a healthy, safe, community building lifestyle was important to them. Not having such a place here in Grand Junction was a disappointment.

Now fast forward almost 40 years. After receiving my education in Denver, Colorado and meeting my husband, we decided to relocate back to Grand Junction to start a family and be closer to my parents. It saddens me that even after 40 years and in a city that is considered a metropolitan area, that we have made zero progress in regards to providing the people of Grand Junction with a community center. A place that would allow people of all ages to meet, move, learn and play.

During a time when the suicide rate among our young people is at an all-time high, levels that could arguably be called an epidemic, I think it is important to take the time to listen to the people, determine what we as a community are lacking and what we desperately need. Our young people deserve so much more than we are currently providing them. Our future depends on young people creating a strong economy and civic society.

I appreciate the citizens leading this effort. They are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is worth serious consideration. Unfortunately, I will be out of town for the council workshop on June 5th, please take and share this letter as my full support of the above-mentioned initiatives. I will continue to "Say Yes to Grand Junction", we deserve it.

Sincerely,

Jodi Niernberg

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 15, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), I was impressed by their enthusiasm and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

I am the President elect of the committee to bring a Boys and Girls Club to Grand Junction. In other communities in our state and across the nation the Boys and Girls Clubs work hand in hand with the Community Rec Centers to provide activities to the youth involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs. This is a partnership that is beneficial to the kids and community alike.

Following are the goals I feel we would be an incredible benefit to not only our community but especially for the youth involved with our club;

- An accessible and affordable center that can serve citizens across social, economic and physical barriers.
- An intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families.
- Meeting rooms and event space that supports the creation and maintenance of social connections.
- Opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- A great outlet to become or stay strong and healthy through recreation and play.
- A avenue for learning that may address tutoring, healthy eating, mental health and healthy life choices.
- A nucleus for Grand Junction's park and recreational offerings, which would feature and bolster the quality of living in our area.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,





Grand Junction
819 Pitkin Avenue (81501)
PO Box 429 • Grand Junction CO 81502
Office: 970.242.9980 • Fax: 970.242.9903
Email: grandjunction@em-techinc.com

Craig
120 W 16th Street (81625)
PO Box 1527 • Craig, CO 81626
Office: 970.824.7023 • Fax: 970.824.3621
Email: craig@em-techinc.com

WITH DIVISION:

Rocky Mountain Standby Power
2295 Tall Grass Drive (81505) • PO Box 1805 • Grand Junction, CO 81502
Office: 970.244.0960 • Fax: 970.243.8272 • Email: standbypower@em-techinc.com

May 22, 2017

City of Grand Junction
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction CO 81501

Attn: Greg Caton

Reference: Community Recreation Center

Greg,

I hope this finds you well and continuing to move this city forward. I haven't had the opportunity to speak with you since the night of the election. I can't tell you how disappointed I was and am that the citizens of Grand Junction did not understand 2A as an economic development piece moving Grand Junction forward. However, perhaps we should have focused on the other hotly debated topic of the "Community Center". It does seem that a portion of the city residents see this as that economic development piece, one that would immediately kick start our economy. Not to the scale of an event center, but certainly a start. I also think that there is something to be said for the intergenerational gathering place welcoming youth, seniors, and families.

With some of the challenges facing our youths today, this would become a great outlet in promoting health and wellness, especially the mental and emotional health across all socio and economic barriers. Unfortunately, I will not be available during the council workshop of June 5th, but I would like this letter to be added as a supporter in moving this project forward. This truly is a win-win for all within the City of Grand Junction. The Say "Yes" for Grand Junction campaign is alive and well.

Sincerely,

Michael P Anton



From: lwood@ggre.us

Subject: Re: letter of endorsement/Community and Recreation Center

Date: May 13, 2017 at 5:14:03 PM MDT

To: Judith Herr <judyherr45@gmail.com>

I'm happy to tell you that the Grand Junction Area Realtors Association approved the endorsement you requested. We will be getting that to you soon. At least prior to June 5th. I along with the CEO are going to DC for a week, so I'm sure it will be after we return.

Sent from my phone. Please excuse any typos.

Thank You,
Lori R Wood, Broker/Owner
Graystone Group Real Estate

May 15, 2017

Letter of Support for Feasibility Study for Community and Recreation Center

Greg Caton
Attn: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th St.
Grand Junction, Co 81501

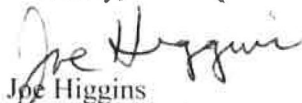
Dear City Manager and Council Members:

As the former director of the Mesa County Partners Program in Grand Junction for over 30 years, I participated in several past discussions and efforts to create a community recreation center in Grand Junction. We are past due on this effort. A feasibility study is the right thing to do. I encourage the City Council to conduct a feasibility study in cooperation with PLACE (People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment).

My hope is that a community recreation center would provide intergenerational services and activities for youth, seniors and families. I would hope that local youth programs such as Riverside Education Center, Boy and Girl Scouts, Partners, and Hilltop Resource Center would participate in collaborative programming and services. I have every confidence in the City's Park and Recreation Department to provide quality programming that benefits are community. The Department has operated the STARS Program and the Bookcliff Middle School activity center in collaborative style with positive results in the past.

Further study into the design and capacity of a Community Recreation Center would be a positive step forward and it needs to be conducted with a large range of local input. Thanks for you consideration.

Sincerely,



Joe Higgins
140 W. Kennedy Ave. Grand Junction, Co 81505

Matchett Family Partnership
4900 Meining Road
Berthoud, CO 80513

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 15, 2017

Dear Mr. Caton, Grand Junction Citizens and Councilmembers,

We are writing in support of current efforts to bring a Community and Recreation Center to Grand Junction. When our parents and grandparents worked with the City of Grand Junction to establish Matchett Park, their goal was not only to preserve its beautiful vistas, but to provide citizens of Grand Junction with space to learn, play and grow. A new center would be perfectly in keeping with their original vision.

The Matchett Family Partnership is proud of our family's contributions to agriculture, health and education in the Grand Valley. Having grown up on the land that is now Matchett Park, we know how valuable wide-open space can be. We are happy that citizens are already enjoying the park for activities like walking, running, biking and Frisbee golf, and know that our grandfather, "Ken the rancher" would be pleased that much of the land continues to be operated under a farm lease. But as kids we sometimes missed the community activities that our friends who lived in town were able to enjoy, so it made perfect sense to us when participants in the 2014 Matchett Park Master Planning process expressed strong support for a recreation center with amenities like a public fitness center and pool. More recently, we have spoken with the *People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE)*, and agree that Grand Junction would benefit from an accessible and affordable center that could serve the wider health and educational needs of citizens across the social, economic and physical spectrum. Our father, "Ken the doctor" would definitely support this: in addition to dedicating his career to helping patients with cancer and heart disease, he combined his love of patient care with his love of equestrian sports to host the "Hilltop Hospice Benefit Horse Trials" on our property for several years. This undertaking truly brought the whole community together: it utilized countless sponsors and volunteers, intrigued and entertained spectators from all over town, and raised funds to help people suffering from terminal illness. And of course, it was access to educational opportunities that enabled dad to become a doctor in the first place. Dad learned the value of education from his father (our grandfather) who was one of the earliest members of the local school board, and his mother Thelma (our grandmother), who used her accounting degree from Mesa College to manage the farm and ranch books. And he shared that value with his wife Sally (our mother), who was a professor at Mesa State College -- now Colorado Mesa University -- for 27 years, and also served on the board of the Mesa County Public Library District. Not surprisingly, the earliest plans for Matchett Park included dedicated space to build a new public elementary school.

We understand that recent development trends led the school district to sell its 14 acres of back to the city, but for all of the reasons just mentioned we believe that a community center providing both educational and

recreational activities would be a perfect fit for Matchett Park. Such a center could serve a number of purposes and might provide:

- a hub for mental and emotional health programs in collaboration with support service providers in Grand Junction.
- a nucleus for Grand Junction's park and recreational offerings
- an intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families, including meeting rooms and event space that supports the creation and maintenance of social connections, and opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- space for wider community educational activities such as tutoring programs and workshops on healthy eating and healthy lifestyle choices.

Because the best center is the one designed by and for the local community, we agree with the citizens working with *PLACE* that a feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community and Recreation Center could provide is now warranted. A feasibility study will also contribute to Grand Junction's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in the region. We wish you every success in that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Matchett Kubik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" being the most prominent.

Nancy Matchett Kubik
The Matchett Family Partnership



Greg Caton, City Manager
Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May, 17 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing on behalf of our Board of Directors and staff of Mind Springs Health to lend our support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), I was impressed by their enthusiasm and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

Mind Springs Health is proud to continue to serve Grand Junction and surrounding areas in their behavioral health needs. The idea of having a center that brings our community together to meet, move, learn and play has great potential for both the physical and mental health of Grand Junction. In line with our mission to rebuild lives and inspire hope by providing exceptional mental health and addiction recovery care, strengthening the health and vitality of our communities, we were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center, such as creating:

- A hub for mental and emotional health programs in collaboration with support service providers in Grand Junction.
- An avenue for learning that may address tutoring, healthy eating, mental health and healthy life choices.
- Opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- A great outlet to become or stay strong and healthy through recreation and play.
- Meeting rooms and event space that supports the creation and maintenance of social connections.
- An accessible and affordable center that can serve citizens across social, economic and physical barriers.
- An intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families.
- A nucleus for Grand Junction's park and recreational offerings, which would feature and bolster the quality of living in our area.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding

economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. Increasing community connectivity will only raise all boats. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Carol Skubic

Board Chair



Sharon Raggio

President & CEO



January 23, 2017

People for Local Activities and Community (PLACE)
c/o Western Colorado Congress (WCC)
134 North Sixth Street
P.O. Box 1931
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Dear People of PLACE,

Rocky Mountain Health Plans FOUNDATION is pleased to award \$5,000 towards the costs of conducting a feasibility study in Mesa County in creating a community center for all people in the city of Grand Junction.

Although the concept of a community recreation center isn't new to Grand Junction, we recognize that the time has come to engage our citizens and complete this effort which has the potential to improve the overall health of the community.

An important mission of Rocky Mountain Health Plans FOUNDATION is to partner to improve the health of all Coloradans. Gifts of this sort are made possible by the generosity of many individuals and businesses in our community.

Please notify me once all funding sources are determined and we can send our portion of the cost directly to PLACE.

Best of health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Fenton Free".

Lisa Fenton Free
Executive Director

5/7/17

Putt it here



Dear Greg,

We have spoken about a Family Recreation Center and now I want to put in a pitch for your help with a feasibility study. Last I looked, the City was in the business of recreation!!

This has been a dream a long, long time in coming and I

Printed in Canada



think our Community would be
(Recenter)
stronger and more vital with one.
Am particularly concerned about our
elderly, disabled and disadvantaged not
having a place to play.

Whatever support you can
muster for this endeavor would be
appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sally Schaefer

Chair of "Grand Valley Rec
Resources, Inc."

970-250-7716

Sally.schaefer@gmail.com

May 9, 2017

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Mr. Caton, Members of the Grand Junction City Council and Grand Junction Community Leaders,

St. Mary's mission calls the organization to work to improve the health status to the communities we serve. For over 120 years our efforts to improve the health of western Colorado communities have ranged from improving access to primary care to bringing specialty services to western Colorado to helping address the needs of the mentally ill. Please accept this letter as a letter of endorsement for the current effort to research and develop opportunities to bring in a community and recreation center to Grand Junction.

We all have experienced the community changes that have taken place in Grand Junction. Over the past several years St. Mary's has made investments to advance and change tertiary and medical acute care for this community. The time has now come for the community to address the recreational needs that have developed over time. There are numerous benefits to having a community and recreation center, benefits that impacts the social emotional and health of our citizens. Numerous communities in western Colorado have a community and recreation center. A feasibility and further research into such a facility in Grand Junction is warranted.

St. Mary's would like to show its support of the People for Local activities and Community Enrichments "PLACE" as they initiate a citizens process to further research a community and recreation center. Their goal is to listen to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive community recreation center. St. Mary's supports their efforts in this process.

Improving the health of the community requires numerous efforts in multiple levels. St. Mary's continues to support a variety of efforts that addresses everything from improving the quality of acute care to making primary care more available. Some of these efforts are beyond responsibilities of the hospital and becomes more of a community and citizen lead process. The effort to research and access feasibility of a community and recreation center is one way to possibly improve the health status of our Grand Junction community and is something that we support.

Sincerely,



Brian Davidson,
President

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 9, 2017

Ladies and gentlemen,

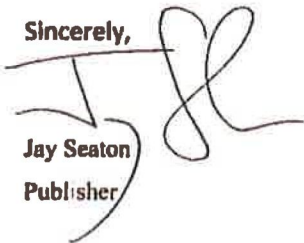
I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction.

I believe such a center can be designed that delivers the community/gathering-space amenities that this community lacks while not competing with private enterprise.

Though a rec center does not offer direct economic development benefits, it does make a community more attractive to the type of workforce this community must bring if it hopes to grow in a healthy, sustainable way.

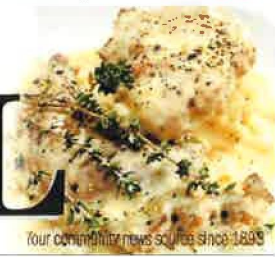
Sincerely,

Jay Seaton
Publisher



THE DAILY SENTINEL

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO



Wednesday
November 16, 2016

Your community news source since 1899

EDITORIAL

Rec center fits with vision for the valley

The success of Fruita's Community Center leaves many Grand Junction residents wondering why they don't have a similar amenity of their own.

A grassroots organization called People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE) is in the midst of a multi-pronged effort to bring a community center to Grand Junction.

They're attempting to collect 1,000 signatures from residents to show the community is invested in the idea. Organizers plan to present these signatures to the Grand Junction City Council in January. They're also gathering survey results about what people want in a center and applying for grants to fund a feasibility study.

The group wants to work as closely with the city as possible. But the council is divided on the issue. Some are ardent supporters. Others are philosophically supportive, but sensitive to financial issues. For those facing re-election in the spring, support of the community center idea is certain to become a campaign issue.

The idea of a community center is nothing new. PLACE committee members estimate this is the fourth or fifth time in the past 40 years that a movement has galvanized behind the idea. Voter-approved efforts to build community centers in Fruita and Montrose and the demise of the Life Center's gym have created momentum for a city-supported community center in Grand Junction.

Without the specifics of a price tag, location and funding mechanism, it's too soon to say whether this is a good idea. But we're supportive of the bottom-up strategy to make this a priority. City Council has taken its lumps for supporting The Avalon and Las Colonias amphitheater. It's fair for council members to ask residents to step up and prove demand for this project.

Whether that happens, a community center fits in with a strategy to make the community more marketable to young entrepreneurs and millennial families. It's another piece to complement a framework of amenities that enhance the livability factor in the Grand Valley, which could help with business development, expansion and retention.

Fruita has paved the way with a shining example of how such a center could benefit the community. It brings several services under one roof — a senior center, a library branch, a workout area, a gymnasium and a pool. It's used often enough to pay for itself and generate enough revenues for upgrades.

Supporters will have to show that a community center with a recreation component won't be detrimental to private enterprise. While it's true that a community center fosters programming and a sense of community that fitness centers can't, it's competition nevertheless.

For now, we're glad to see an effort underway to explore the benefits and the cost of adding a potentially valuable asset.



Greg Caton, City Manager

ATTN: Grand Junction City Council

250 N 5th Street

Grand Junction, CO 81502

May 5, 2017

Dear Grand Junction City Council,

On behalf of the Western Colorado Congress Board of Directors, I am writing in appreciation of your willingness to hear and consider the proposal for a Community and Recreation Center from "People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment" (PLACE).

In seeking to build a strong and vibrant community, we believe that a grassroots effort of this magnitude represents government by and for the people and aligns with the vision shared by both the city and Western Colorado Congress.

It is our belief that a Community and Recreation Center will meet a variety of needs for the citizens of Grand Junction. City Council's support of a feasibility study is a crucial next step.

As partners in creating an appealing and welcoming Grand Junction, we look to a future where people of all ages feel welcomed, find support, and recreate in safe, healthy environments.

Sincerely, 

Steve Allerton- President

Western Colorado Congress

Mr. Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 19, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and City Council Members,

Earlier this month I was approached by a representative from the *People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment* (PLACE) to share their efforts aimed at bringing a community center to Grand Junction. As a suicide prevention professional, I enthusiastically support this initiative.

As you may already know, the suicide rate in Mesa County is 2.5 times the national average. Last year, our community lost 48 individuals to suicide – a record high for our region. Our suicide rate for 2016 came in at 32.2 percent, far higher than both the state (19 percent) and national (16 percent) rates. Of those lost last year, four were youth ages 15-19. Statistics show that each year 1 in 5 kids aged 13-18 experiences a mental health condition.

While there are many contributors to an individual completing suicide, one shared and almost always present condition experienced by those lost was a sense of disconnection to their community, family and friends. We know that most individuals who attempt or complete suicide lacked a solid connection to people, community and life.

Bringing a community center to Mesa County could have a significant impact on our collective community connectedness by offering and promoting opportunities for residents to engage with one another. As our local county, city and nonprofit community leaders participate in formal collaboration efforts around transforming the community to increase our collective connectedness; bringing a community center to our county would be a powerful and tangible action step that would contribute greatly in creating this reality.

Mesa County has experienced the emotional and financial cost of suicide in the workplace, home and social circles for over a decade. Investing in a community center would be a benefit to our county, and would also have a favorable impact on our community's overall mental health and well-being.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration.



Jennifer Clark, *Executive Director*
Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation

Organization information

PLACE is a working community group of the Western Colorado Congress (WCC). WCC is a grassroots, democratic organization dedicated to challenging injustice by organizing people to increase their power over decisions that affect their lives. WCC's community groups and members work together to create healthy, sustainable communities, social and economic justice, environmental stewardship and a truly democratic society.

History and Rationale

Grand Junction (pop. 61,000), the county seat and the most populous municipality of Mesa County (pop. 150,000), does not have a community & recreation center. It is the only city of any size on the Western Slope without such a facility.

Over the past 30 years, various proposals have been advanced, but these top-down efforts failed due to a lack of vision and public buy-in. Learning from these mistakes, the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE) Campaign is building broad and rapidly growing public support through the techniques of grassroots organizing that Western Colorado Congress (PLACE's partner organization) and its network partners have honed over four decades.

PLACE is a diverse group of Grand Junction residents committed to the creation of an affordable, accessible community & recreation center that would be the heart of wellness and social connection in the city of Grand Junction and surrounding areas. As a place to "meet, move, learn, and play" this facility would support the city's goal "to become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025."

By offering recreational, social, and educational activities, and providing a space for community gatherings, such a center would promote the health and wellbeing of people of all ages and diverse backgrounds and would help to prevent some of the negative impacts of social disruption. It would be an economic boost to the city by attracting new families and businesses, retaining those already here, and enhancing property values. It would enhance community identity and civic pride.

The time is right for this effort. Since 2000, the surrounding communities of Montrose, Delta, Fruita and Battlement Mesa have approved initiatives to build community & recreation centers that, despite initial tax concerns in all cases, have since become "jewels" in their local communities. There is a growing sense among Grand Junction residents that "if they all have community & recreation centers, why can't we?"

Grand Junction's development of a master plan for the 205-acre Matchett Park property, finalized in 2014, created the impetus for PLACE. The public participation process to create the plan entailed three community meetings with 479 in attendance and two online surveys generating nearly 1,800 responses. Although the Matchett Park plan did not envision a community & recreation center, city planners found that citizen responses mentioned a community & recreation center more times than any other park facility or amenity!

The PLACE group began meeting bi-weekly in 2015 with a review of the previous attempts to establish a community & recreation center. Supportive studies and white papers provided the background of health concerns and social conditions identified by citizen surveys and by measures of health and wellness data. One such study done in 2000 by the Civic Forum Leadership Committee, based on Mesa County Picture of Health data of 1998, stated: "There is a predominant perception from the community members that there are neither enough recreation facilities or activities available to the entire population to ensure an optimum quality of life... Glaring service gaps exist that are in dire need of being filled, to improve opportunities within our community."

Notes from Neighboring Community & Recreation Centers + Additional Feedback

Fruita Community Center:

Background

FCC efforts originally started to build a recreation center, but community feedback directed organizers to create a community center. Community services provided include a library, senior center, meeting rooms, and Parks & Recreation offices and programming (dances, night at the FCC, etc.)

In 2007 a feasibility study was conducted by Greenplay, LLC and Sink Combs Dethlefs for \$45,000. The study analyzed size, amenities, and cost as well as conducted open-to-the-public meetings which prioritized needs/wants and worked closely with the FCC organizing group and their Parks & Recreation department. See their feasibility study here:

<http://www.fruita.org/parksrec/page/about-parks-recreation>

Voting & Opposition:

The issue went to the voters twice 2008 election. The first election (April), it was a tie vote. It passed in November 2008 by a narrow margin. Organizers dealt with 2 primary points of opposition: the tax increase and the public v. private competition issue. For the tax increase, organizers focused on benefits of the FCC & current community deficiencies and creating a "heart of the community," as well as emphasizing the small cost to residents (\$.01 on the dollar as a small cost to build). For the public v. private issue, organizers emphasized that the FCC is not solely a fitness facility, and that it would serve different clientele (seniors & families) than the local fitness centers. At the FCC instead of just on fitness, the focus would be on creating a social gathering space.

Funding, Finances, & Useage

Funding comes from the city budget general fund, within which the FCC operates its own fund (1% of Sales & Use tax, 100% of that 1% goes to the FCC budget). The project's initial funding comes from a debt service (sold bonds) which sunsets in 30 years, and a sales & use tax increase of 1% (from 6.9% to 7.9%)

Useage

- 80% of passholders live in Fruita
- 30%-50% of day entrance users from out of Fruita
- FCC has never gone "into the red" - usership has been higher than they expected
 - now running into storage & space issues
 - Population of Fruita: 12,000
 - paid visits per year: 170,000

(Notes from January 2016 visit & meeting with Ture Nycum, Fruita Parks & Recreation Director and Tom Casal - Recreation Superintendent)

Durango Community Recreation Center

Every facet of the center was being utilized by at least two residents between the ages of ~2 to ~82 at around 1:00pm on a school day. It was busy and boisterous! Approximately 1000 people per day use the center. Residents just had their second vote to sustain the tax increase. The

first vote to build the facility barely passed. The second vote passed hands down, no problem. Bike trails and bus service had to be developed to accommodate the youth using the center. Four new gyms have opened in Durango since the center was built. None have gone out of business. The private gyms cater to a different clientele than those who go to the center. The layout is very similar to Fruita. The population of Durango is 15,000, with surrounding communities about 40,000 and the facility is larger than the size of Fruita's (Fruita Community Center = 55,000 sq ft, Durango Community Recreation Center = 71,557 sq ft.). (notes from site visit with Kelli Jaycox, Recreation Manager, Parks and Rec Department May 2016)

Montrose Community & Recreation Center

Background information:

Montrose Recreation District is separate from the city and county of Montrose (has been for 63 years). The rec district was originally created to start a community pool, and is funded via property taxes. The district has its own elected officials. The rec district now runs the senior center, the recreation center, and the 'pavilion' where community classes & events happen. Montrose Parks department is part of the city, and separate from the rec district.

History of the Community/Recreation Center Effort:

March 2011 was the creation of a citizen task force supported & facilitated by the rec district (25 people on the task force). This group got a feasibility study for \$40,000 (\$20,000 from saved up property taxes from past 3-4 years, \$20,000 from DOLA planning grant). The citizens task force interviewed the architect & consulting companies. There was no site identified before the study. See their feasibility study here: <http://montroserec.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/476>

After about 1 year from the formation of the task force, the measure was placed on the ballot in April 2012 to raise a .2% sales tax to build the center. It failed. The citizens task force made some tweaks to the plans & tried again in April 2014 - it passed by 52%.

In June 2014, the task force travelled to San Francisco to get a \$25.5m bond (triple B+ rating) which got them a low interest rate. This means they owe payments of \$1.9m year. The initial payments were made from the saved up property taxes from the rec district (the rec district increased property taxes a few years prior to the creation of the task force), but final payments on that bond are made by a combination of property taxes (rec district), the sales tax increase, and user fees.

Total cost: \$28m

Key facts & impact on local business: CRC employs more part time employees than any other business in Montrose (especially teen employment) 40 p/t lifeguards & they need more! No gyms have closed since CRC opened

Partnership with the hospital

Mountain View PHysical Therapy has a clinic in the CRC. They partnered with the rec district and prepaid 3 of their 5 year lease to help make initial debt repayments. They use the same equipment in the physical therapy space as the CRC uses to transition from PT to wellness.

(notes from March 2017 meeting with Barbara Bynum, Board of Directors, Montrose Recreation District)

We have also examined data and feedback from:

- Northside Aztlan Community Center – City of Fort Collins
- Greeley Recreation Center
- Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center – City of Loveland
- Gunnison Community Center
- Broomfield Community Center
- Crossroads Fitness
- Yoga:Vinyassa
- Fruita Crossfit

Annotated Research by Topic

Economic Health

Supporting a stable population through community connections

"By encouraging connections among diverse groups and making connections between individuals and their community, small institutions create a stable population of 'stayers.' Actively maintaining this core of homesteaders could be the best way for communities to maintain long term population growth and economic health."

Irwin, Tolbert, Lyson, "How to Build Strong Home Towns," [American Demographics, 1997](#)

Need to attract physicians and other professionals

"As a local physician, I frequently hear concerns from patients that there is a physician shortage in Grand Junction. The reason for this is that it is challenging to recruit young professional families to Grand Junction. A community center would be a major asset when recruiting professionals. In addition to offering a healthy resource for children and families, it would also demonstrate a spirit of community that I believe families are searching for when choosing a place to live."

David Scott, MD - Allergy & Asthma Center of Western Colorado

Recreation opportunities as recruitment tool

"HopeWest is currently poised to add 200 jobs over the next five years as part of our organization's expansion into PACE and other programs to support our seniors. Many of these new employers will be nurses and physicians. I have readily learned through our past recruitment efforts that a positive environment to raise children is foremost on every candidate's mind. Unfortunately, we do not offer much competitively in this area. Our schools lack in their rankings - as do their funding and we have very little to offer in terms of a place for kids to be after school and on weekends. I believe that if we do nothing to improve both our schools and recreation opportunities for children, we will have great difficulty recruiting jobs, as well as new employers to our city."

Christy Whitney - President/CEO HopeWest

Economic Value of Social Capital

"Know-your-neighbor" social capital, while hard to tabulate, helps ward off all kinds of antisocial problems that would otherwise cost the city more in police, fire, prison, counseling, and rehabilitation costs... The economic value of social capital is not entirely identifiable and is in some ways priceless"

The Trust for Public Land. "The Economic Benefits of Denver's Park and Recreation System." The Trust for Public Land, July 2010. Web

Parents better able to maintain steady employment when there are safe after school options for kids

"When asked whether the Alex Fiore Thousand Oaks Teen Center has made it easier for parents to keep their jobs, half of the respondents indicated that it is either true or very true that the center has made that possible. By allowing parents to keep their jobs, the Alex Fiore Thousand Oaks Teen Center is providing an economic benefit to the community. If such parents could not keep their jobs, the region would lose economic output and tax revenue"

Conejo Recreation & Park District. *An Economic Engine of Ventura County and the State of California*. By Jamshid Damooei and Alidad A. Damooei. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 May 2017.

Increased property Values near parks

“A 2009 report from the National Association of REALTORS® found the premium for homes near parks can extend three blocks and start at 20 percent for those homes directly adjacent (declining as distance from the park increases).”

Harnick, Peter, Abby Martin, Matthew Treat, and Linda S. Keenan. "The Economic Benefits of the Park & Recreation System in San Jose, California." The Trust for Public Land, Feb. 2016. Web.

“Houses that are located closely to newly built community centers or sports centers notice increases in property values. Studies have shown that people not only love going to recreation centers, but they are also willing to pay to live closer to one.”

JumpSix Marketing. "Why a Recreation Center? | Sports Facilities Advisory." *Sports Facility Advisory and Sports Facility Management*. N.p., 15 July 2016. Web. 25 May 2017.

Economic boost from sports facilities & healthy employees

“Sports facilities can hold large tournaments that can bring people from neighboring states. This increase of people can help bring more revenue into a city a few times a year. Local businesses along with the recreation centers see an increase in revenue during these large events.”

“Employees who exercise regularly used almost half as many absences as employees who did not engage in physical activity. Employees who had actively paid for membership for physical recreation are more alert on the job and have a lower turnover rate than employees without similar benefits.”

JumpSix Marketing. "Why a Recreation Center? | Sports Facilities Advisory." *Sports Facility Advisory and Sports Facility Management*. N.p., 15 July 2016. Web. 25 May 2017.

Community Health

Need for “built environment” and “building a sense of community” in Mesa County

A priority area of improvement & goal from the Mesa County Community Health Improvement Plan is to “promote health through advocacy for a well-constructed and inclusive built environment. Built environment is a key determinant of health and plays a decisive role in influencing the behaviors of individuals and communities. A community’s development priorities shape the number and type of opportunities people have to be active, eat healthy food, and socialize.”

Another priority area and goal from the Mesa County Community Health Improvement Plan is to build a sense of community by “engaging community in commons-approach collaboration. True collaboration among community partners and agencies offering similar services and programs is essential to ensure that those at greatest risk receive the information, resources, services, and programs need in order to change behaviors leading to unhealthy outcomes”

Mesa County Health Department. "Healthy Mesa County 2012-2017: Strategies to Address Community Health Needs." N.p., n.d. Web.

Lacking community resources in Mesa County

“There is a predominant perception from the community members that there are neither enough recreation facilities or activities available to the entire population to ensure an optimum quality of life. . . . Glaring service gaps exist . . . There are not enough inexpensive recreation alternatives or places where younger children who require some supervision can go. . . . Of absolute interest was the creation of an active, community complex that addresses many needs at one central location.”

May, 2000- White Paper on the Community Recreation Initiative Completed by the Community Recreation Initiative Organizing Committee under Civic Forum Leadership using “Mesa County Picture of Health data (1992 and 1998).

Strategies for delinquency and drug abuse prevention

“Promoting alternative recreational activities, strengthening family ties, improving self-efficacy (a person’s experience of competence and self-regard), building social competence (comfortably and responsibly relating to others), and broadening cultural experiences are the most effective strategies for delinquency and drug abuse prevention. At-risk youth can turn their lives around when exposed to and engaged in fulfilling alternatives to drugs and crime.”

Milkman, Harvey. "Better Than Dope." *Psychology Today*. N.p., 1 Mar. 2001. Web.

Importance of participation in out-of-school activities, & crime stats for juveniles

“Nine outcomes are particularly important results of participation in out-of-school time (OST) programs. These outcomes occur for participants, families, and the wider community and include:

1. contribute to reducing juvenile delinquency
2. contribute to increasing positive and reducing negative behaviors
3. expose youth to less violence
4. improve children’s educational performance and thus impact the quality of the future workforce and the national economy
5. help decrease health care costs related to childhood obesity

6. increase the economic contributions of young people to society when they become adults
7. help youth develop self-confidence, optimism, and initiative”

When the school bell rings, crimes by and against children soar. Millions of children and teens are turned out on the streets without constructive activities or adult supervision. On school days, the period from 3 pm to 6 pm is the peak time for teens to:

- commit crimes
- be victims of crime
- be in or cause a car crashes
- smoke, drink, or use drugs
- commit a sexual assault

According to a Health and Human Services Study in 2002, 57% of all violent crimes by juveniles occur on school days and 19% are in the hours between 3-7. On the other hand, students who participate in 1-4 hours per week of extracurricular activities are 49% less likely to use drugs and 37% less likely to become teen parents than students who do not participate.

In a 2000 California State Parks survey, more than 80% of CA mayors and chambers of commerce believed that recreation areas and programs reduce crime and delinquency, and 71% of respondents felt that recreation played a positive role in touch social problems such as juvenile court, 66% about underage drinking and 64% about illegal drug use.

Witt, Peter A., and Linda L. Caldwell. "The Rationale for Recreation Services for Youth: An Evidenced Based Approach." National Recreation and Park Association, 2010. Web.

Juvenile crime rates lower with a community & recreation center

Juvenile criminal rates can decrease up to 25% when the community has a recreation center for adolescents to attend. A community recreation center gives children a safe place to play, keeping them off the streets.

JumpSix Marketing. "Why a Recreation Center? | Sports Facilities Advisory." *Sports Facility Advisory and Sports Facility Management*. N.p., 15 July 2016. Web. 25 May 2017.

Low income kids lack access to structured sports activities

Barriers to participation for low-income kids (lack of available programming, unsafe neighborhoods, too expensive to participate) exacerbate health and education gaps between low-income children and their more affluent peers. While a host of factors contribute to these gaps, access to structured sports opportunities is without question one of them.

Gottlieb, Alan. "Team Sports Fall Out of Reach for Many Kids." *Colorado Trust*. The Colorado Trust: A Health Equity Foundation, 07 Apr. 2017. Web. 25 May 2017.

What kids want to do with free time

“Safe parks and recreation centers topped the list when researchers asked adolescents what they wanted most during their non-school hours.”

“The Health and Social Benefits of Recreation.” California State Parks Planning Division, 2005. Web.

Public Safety benefits of community & recreation centers

Some recreation centers offer classes that teach CPR and first aid procedures that can greatly benefit the community. These classes usually cost very little to attend, and some even offer free enrollment. Recreation centers are also seen as safe spots since the large crowds can deter violent situations.

JumpSix Marketing. "Why a Recreation Center? | Sports Facilities Advisory." *Sports Facility Advisory and Sports Facility Management*. N.p., 15 July 2016. Web. 25 May 2017.

Fitness & wellness activities encourage healthy relationships

Couples and families that play together tend to stay together. Lab studies show that after jointly participating in an exciting physical challenge or activity, couples report feeling more satisfied with their relationships and more in love with their partner.

DiDonato, Theresa E., Ph.D. "5 Reasons Why Couples Who Sweat Together, Stay Together." *Psychology Today*, 10 Jan. 2014. Web.

Community & recreation centers improve lives

"This study shows that the Conejo Recreation & Park District has successfully created a place for youth and older populations to get together, enjoy each other's company, utilize their talents and learn new skills or develop their artistic talents. Although this study did not go further to measure their tangible economic impact in monetary terms, the survey results provided strong evidence that teens, their families, and senior citizens are direct beneficiaries of this institutions' investment for betterment of their economic and social lives."

Conejo Recreation & Park District. *An Economic Engine of Ventura County and the State of California*. By Jamshid Damooei and Alidad A. Damooei. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 May 2017.

Mental Health

Link between social isolation and poor physical & mental health

“Social isolation is a potent killer. Public health experts (House, 2001) now posit that the association between social isolation and health is as strong as the epidemiological evidence that linked smoking and health at the time U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issues his now famous warning. The health risks of social isolation are often studied in older populations, but isolation can be deadly for the young.

Recent research has demonstrated that social isolation is a significant risk factor for cognitive impairment and dementia.” (multiple references). “Social isolation has been associated with increased risk of depressive symptoms suicide attempts, and low self-esteem in young people” and “may ultimately threaten the safety and well-being of others when emotions are externalized.”

American Academy Of Social Work & Social Welfare. "Social Isolation Presents A Grand Challenge for Social Work." N.p., Feb. 2015. Web.

Loneliness and social isolation among older adults

“In order to better understand loneliness and social isolation among older adults, AARP commissioned a national survey of the 45+ population to examine these issues. In addition to examining prevalence rates among older Americans, the study provides a descriptive profile of lonely older adults and examines the relationships between loneliness and health, health behaviors, involvement in a social network and use of technology for social communications and networking.”

Anderson, G. Oscar. "Loneliness Among Older Adults: A National Survey of Adults 45+." *AARP*. N.p., Sept. 2010. Web.

Biggest disease in America: Isolation

“I wasn’t surprised that when I asked Surgeon General Murthy what was the biggest disease in America today he answered, “It’s not cancer. It’s not heart disease. It’s isolation. It is the pronounced isolation that so many people are experiencing that is the great pathology of our lives today.”

Friedman, Thomas L. *Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. Print.

Community & Recreation Center as preventative tool

“From a suicide prevention perspective, a community center would be a strong preventive tool. (Social) connections and exercise are two major factors in risk reduction for suicidality and mental illness. We know that the stronger connections people have with others, the less likely they are to complete suicide. . . . We could use a community center in Mesa County, where suicide is two times the national rate and higher than the state rate. Suicide is the 7th leading cause of death in CO.

Think of the emotional and financial cost of suicide in the workplace, home, and social circles. If building a community center could avoid spending money on attempted suicide, counseling, rehiring employees, absenteeism, reduction of productivity, many problems that could be prevented if only people came together, communicated and connected, and exercised, why wouldn’t we do it?”

Graff, Martha 2016 Executive Director, Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation, "Suicide Prevention." Personal interview.

Suicide Prevention

“CDC seeks to stop suicidal behavior before it occurs. This involves reducing the factors that put people at risk for experiencing violence. It also includes increasing the factors that protect

people or buffer them from risk. . . including learning about risk factors, developing strategies for prevention, and ensuring that effective prevention approaches reach those in need.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Connectedness as a Strategic Direction for the Prevention of Suicidal Behavior: Promoting Individual, Family, and Community Connectedness to Prevent Suicidal Behavior." (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

Largest risk factor for serious illness = lack of social connectedness

“Research shows that the largest risk factor for serious illness is lack of social connectedness. By focusing on this issue, we can strengthen our community and help address health and mental health in many ways.”

Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services Administration. "Community Conversations About Health: Discussion Guide." (n.d.): n. pag. US Department of Health and Human Services, 2013. Web.

Physical Health

Mesa County has poorer health than rest of CO

Key findings from Mesa County: Mesa County is significantly higher than Colorado for all cancers, chronic lower respiratory disease, risk factors for chronic disease, tobacco & substance use. The rate of chlamydia among Mesa County teens and young adults (15-29 years old) is significantly higher than Colorado teens and young adults. Additionally, more than 49% of children in Mesa County are not physically active at least 60 minutes per day, and 18.4% of kids ages 2-14 are obese or overweight. More than half (59%) of adults are considered overweight or obese.

Mesa County Health Department. "Mesa County Community Health Needs Assessment." N.p., 2015. Web.

Importance of physical activity

"There is irrefutable evidence of the effectiveness of regular physical activity in the primary and secondary prevention of several chronic diseases (e.g., cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, obesity, depression and osteoporosis) and premature death."

Warburton DER, Nicol CW, Bredin SSD. Health benefits of physical activity: the evidence. *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 2006;174(6):801-809. doi:10.1503/cmaj.051351. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1402378/>

Exercise as preventative tool

"Exercise helps prevent and improve a number of health problems, including high blood pressure, diabetes and arthritis. Research on anxiety, depression and exercise shows that the psychological and physical benefits of exercise can also help reduce anxiety and improve mood."

Mayo Clinic Staff. "Depression and Anxiety: Exercise Eases Symptoms." *Mayo Clinic*. N.p., n.d. Web.



Grand Junction City Council

Workshop Session

Item #1.b.

Meeting Date: June 5, 2017

Presented By: Diane Schwenke, Grand Junction Chamber President, Kristi Pollard, GJEP Executive Director

Department: City Manager

Submitted By: Diane Schwenke, Grand Junction Chamber President and Kristi Pollard, GJEP Executive Director

Information

SUBJECT:

Foreign Trade Zone Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

An update on the feasibility of establishing a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) for the area.

BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:

The City of Grand Junction began exploring the feasibility of establishing a Foreign Trade Zone in 2015. The benefits of such a zone accrue primarily to domestic companies that import materials and products for purposes of manufacturing, assembly and warehousing. Such business benefits include:

- Duty exemption for products imported, manufactured and exported
- Duty deferral for project imported, warehoused and/or manufactured
- Opportunity to use "inverted duty" which allows a company a choice between duty on component parts or finished product
- Streamlined Customs procedures and Fees.

In order to establish a zone there must be a Customs Agent within a port of entry (in Grand Junction that is the Grand Junction Regional Airport). A zone can cover an adjacent area up to 60 miles and up to a 90-minute drive from the zone through the alternative site framework. The alternative site framework allows businesses to establish secured boundaries within their places of businesses that essentially are considered outside US Customs territory.

The benefits of seeking a Foreign Trade Zone designation for this area include helping existing businesses manage costs and therefore become more competitive and being a unique tool to attract new and expanding businesses to the area. There are currently no Foreign Trade Zones between Salt Lake City and Denver.

In the third quarter of 2016, the City of Grand Junction committed \$50,000, City of Fruita committed \$1,000 and Mesa County committed \$15,000 to hire the expertise necessary to secure a Foreign Trade Zone designation. Diane Schwenke and Kristi Pollard were assigned the administrative responsibilities to oversee the project.

Please see the attached report that details the progress made in the last nine months and identifies next steps.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact is unknown at this time. It will be dependent on where the Customs Office is located and the number of partners participating in the cost.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Direction from the City Council regarding a regional approach in establishing the FTZ.

Attachments

1. Foreign Trade Zone Update Report

Foreign Trade Zone Update
Presented by Diane Schwenke and Kristi Pollard

Background: The City of Grand Junction began exploring the feasibility of establishing a Foreign Trade Zone in 2015. The benefits of such a zone accrue primarily to domestic companies that import materials and products for purposes of manufacturing, assembly and warehousing. Such business benefits include:

- Duty exemption for products imported, manufactured and exported
- Duty deferral for project imported, warehoused and/or manufactured
- Opportunity to use “inverted duty” which allows a company a choice between duty on component parts or finished product
- Streamlined Customs procedures and Fees.

In order to establish a zone there must be a Customs Agent within a port of entry (in Grand Junction that is the Grand Junction Regional Airport). A zone can cover an adjacent area up to 60 miles and up to a 90-minute drive from the zone through the alternative site framework. The alternative site framework allows businesses to establish secured boundaries within their places of businesses that essentially are considered outside US Customs territory.

The benefits of seeking a Foreign Trade Zone designation for this area include helping existing businesses manage costs and therefore become more competitive and being a unique tool to attract new and expanding businesses to the area. There are currently no Foreign Trade Zones between Salt Lake City and Denver.

In the third quarter of 2016, the City of Grand Junction committed \$50,000, City of Fruita committed \$1,000 and Mesa County committed \$15,000 to hire the expertise necessary to secure a Foreign Trade Zone designation. Diane Schwenke and Kristi Pollard were assigned the administrative responsibilities to oversee the project.

Progress Report 8/16 to 5/17

With help of City Staff an RFP was prepared and distributed to hire a consultant for the project. Three proposals were received and representatives of the funders, the airport assisted Diane and Kristi in the selection of Sean Lydon, ISCM, Inc. Sean has assisted in the establishment and/or expansion of ten foreign trade zones. Major milestones of efforts since he was hired are shown below. They all relate to finding a home for a US Customs Agent. This is a pre-requisite for applying for Foreign Trade Zone status. Once US Customs has approved our plan for space we can finally assemble and submit our FTZ application, a process that could take 12 months or more.

- A series of meetings via conference established that we would need to seek our own customs agent and that the airport would need to become a user fee airport where those who benefited from having a customs agent (i.e. companies receiving shipped goods and air cargo and passenger carriers) would pay a fee to cover the \$150,000 to \$200,000 costs of the agent.

- A location search was initiated to find space for the customs office at the Grand Junction Regional Airport.
- Initially a privately-owned facility at the west end of the airport was investigated as a possible location with unfinished space of 5,000 feet for lease and build out estimates were secured. Drawbacks of that site included the limits to accessing the airport apron and tarmac and buildout costs ranged from \$300,000 to \$500,000.
- Attention turned next to the unfinished building owned by the airport and the Airport Board was approached with a request that the building not be demolished and that structural analysis be done to see if the building could be enclosed and the customs agent housed in that facility. The Airport Board agreed to that request.
- As part of the due diligence, inquiries have been made to determine if there are any other available options that meet the required customs standards. There is possibly one additional building on the airport grounds, however, the square footage is split and it currently has tenants in part of the building. Retrofitting the space would be challenging for the owner, but they will engage in a conversation as a last resort. Thus, the unfinished building is still the best option for the purposes of a customs office. Estimates were then secured for what the buildout of 2500 s.f. will be in this new space and a ballpark figure is \$300,000 was established.
- Kristi and Diane began getting inquiries from other economic development and local government officials in the area about sharing in the foreign trade zone benefits and costs. They met with Montrose, Rifle, Parachute and Garfield County officials. There is a presentation planned in July for the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado.
- Airport Board Members were briefed and requested to move ahead with committing to enclosing the unfinished building on May 17th. An RFP will go out in late June. for what that would cost the airport. Follow up is anticipated as soon as the proposals come back to the board.

Next Steps:

- We need clarity from the City Council that a regional approach that encompasses more than Grand Junction or Mesa County is acceptable. We've been advised by the consultant to make the zone as large as possible in the initial submittal as it allows for more funding partners and stands a better chance of approval.
- We need to follow up with the Airport Board and insure there is a commitment on their part to enclose their building and allow us to place a US Customs office in the facility.
- Once commitment is secured, we need to develop our business model of how we would use and fund a customs position as well as the build out the Customs office space, followed by a formal request to US Customs for the location of an agent.
- Upon receiving approval from US Customs we can finally and formally begin the application process for the FTZ.



Grand Junction City Council

Workshop Session

Item #1.c.

Meeting Date: June 5, 2017

Presented By: Frank Watt, Co-chair Riverfront Commission, Paul Nelson, Riverfront Foundation

Department: Parks and Recreation

Submitted By: Rob Schoeber, Parks and Recreation Director

Information

SUBJECT:

Update from Riverfront Commission including Rebranding, Revenue Generating Programs and e-Bikes on Trails

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Riverfront Commission was established in 1987 and consists of 11 members who are appointed by either the City of Grand Junction, City of Fruita, Town of Palisade, or Mesa County. There are also 3 Ex-Officio members from Grand Junction, Fruita and Palisade.

The major accomplishments by the Commission have been significant throughout the past 30 years. While they have provided support for dozens of local programs and projects, their primary focus has been trail development along the Colorado River corridor. The Riverfront Trail is nearly complete and extends from Palisade to the east and beyond Fruita to the west.

In an effort to enhance fundraising potential for local projects, the Commission developed a 501 (c) 3 component known as the Riverfront Foundation. It is the current mission of the Commission and Foundation to diversify their revenue generating capacity through a rebranding effort and voluntary Round Up for the Riverfront Program.

The Commission has recently had discussions pertaining to motorized uses on the trail. Currently, the trail is designated for non-motorized use only. In a letter dated September 20, 2016, the Riverfront Commission informed the City Council that they

continue to support this ban with the exception of ADA compliant devices. Discussions have been held recently in regards to the acceptance of electrical assisted bicycles (E-bikes). E-bikes are battery powered devices that can be operated either by power or pedaling. They are designed to give the rider an extra boost when needed to traverse long routes or up hills. On April 20, 2017, City Manager Greg Caton responded to the Riverfront Commission and encouraged further study into this option of allowing e-bike on the trail. He cited several communities throughout Colorado who have created policies allowing for the use of e-bikes on their trails.

During the recent Colorado legislative session, HB 17-1151 was approved by the legislature. In summary, this bill removes electrical assisted bicycles from the definition of motorized vehicles and creates three classes of e-bikes. The three classifications are defined according to the maximum speed of the electrical power in relationship to the pedaling by the rider.

BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:

Established in 1987, the Riverfront Commission includes 11 members that are appointed by the City of Grand Junction, Town of Palisade, Mesa County and City of Fruita. Current members include Stacy Beough, Dr. Larry Copeland, Dr. Bill Findlay, Gale Foster, Elaine Laney Heath, Karen Jefferson, Claudette Konola, Clifton Sprinkle, Brad Taylor (Co-Chair), Frank Watt (Co-Chair) and Orilee Witte. Ex-Officio member include Chris Kennedy (City of Grand Junction), Kyle Harvey (City of Fruita) and Bennett Price (Town of Palisade).

Committee members will be present to update the City Council on several topics that have been recently addressed by the Riverfront Commission. The Riverfront Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 component for the Commission was established to serve as the fundraising arm of the various riverfront projects and programs. The Commission is proposing a new rebranding effort that will broaden the scope of the Commission and assist with upcoming fundraising efforts. They have identified three strategies including:

1. Cultivate economic, cultural and ecological values of the riverfront corridor,
2. Support multiple uses of the river corridor, and
3. Inspire stewardship of our river systems.

Proposed fundraising programs for the Commission include grant funding, concert series, Memberships/donations and Round Up for the Riverfront.

The use of motorized vehicles on the Riverfront Trail has also been discussed recently by the Commission. Motorized uses of all types are currently prohibited on the riverfront trail with exception of ADA compliant devices. Recent discussions have been held specifically in regards to the use of electrical assisted bicycles (e-bikes). E-bikes

are battery powered and provide added assistance to the rider. They can be operated either by electrical power or pedaling, and average speeds can be slightly higher to those found with traditional pedal bicycles. On September 20, 2016, the Riverfront Commission sent a letter to the City Council in support of the continued ban for all motorized vehicles on the trail including e-bikes. Their letter specifically cites policies that may be in conflict with grant funding, precedents with other motorized vehicles and safety.

As the riverfront trail was developed, multiple grants from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) were utilized for construction. As a condition of the grant awards, GOCO also prohibited the use of motorized vehicles on the GOCO funded trails. More recently however, GOCO has modified its position, and now gives all policy making authority to the local governing municipality. In a letter dated April 20, 2017, City Manager Greg Caton responded to the letter from the Commission, and encouraged them to further study and evaluate the use of e-bikes on the Riverfront Trail. His letter specifically cites several Colorado communities who are evaluating uses of certain classes of e-bikes on their public trails. House Bill 17-1151 was recently introduced and approved by the Colorado Legislature. In summary, this bill removes electrical assisted bicycles from the current definition of motorized vehicles, and creates the following three classes of e-bikes:

Class 1 Electrical Assisted Bicycle – An electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.

Class 2 Electrical Assisted Bicycle – An electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance regardless of whether the rider is pedaling but ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.

Class 3 Electrical Assisted Bicycle – An electrical assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty-eight miles per hour.

This topic was discussed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board during meetings held on April 6, 2017, and April 27, 2017. A motion was made and unanimously approved on April 27 to accept the classification system as described in HB 17-1151 and recommend Class 1 and Class 2 electrical assisted bicycles be allowed where bicycles are allowed, to encourage the overall health of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Staff is seeking Council direction regarding the option to allow e-bikes on municipal trails.

Attachments

1. City Manager Letter to Riverfront Commission - 4-20-17
2. Riverfront Commission Letter 9-20-2016
3. House Bill 17-1151

April 20, 2017

Riverfront Commission
P.O. Box 2477
Grand Junction, CO 81502

RE: E-bikes on Riverfront Trail

The City of Grand Junction offers diverse recreational amenities that allow both citizens and visitors to enjoy the type that best suits his or her abilities. Previously, the Riverfront Commission sent a letter to the members of Grand Junction's City Council, expressing its support for banning electric bikes (e-bikes) from the Riverfront Trail. The letter is attached below. In October of 2016, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board members discussed and agreed to grant deference to local governments, allowing municipalities to make their own determination of use on trails based on research and demand of their community. The new position on e-bikes is in reference to trails funded with local government purpose funds. As a result, I encourage the Riverfront Commission to study and evaluate the use of e-bikes on the Riverfront Trail.

Grand Junction's peer cities, particularly those on the Western Slope, are addressing the use of e-bikes on public multi-use trails. All municipalities require e-bike users to follow standard trail and bicycle etiquette. Some municipalities are entering into a trial period, while other have established rules regulating e-bikes. The following are some examples of peer city regulations:

- Earlier this year, the City of Durango issued [e-bike policy recommendations](#) for the City's trail system. The recommendations restrict e-bikes to only pedal assist Class I models and limit use to certain multi-use hard and soft surface trails.
- The City of Boulder [permits e-bikes](#) on certain multi-use paths in the City. E-bikes must comply with existing use multi-use path rules, including a 15 mph speed limit, travel and passing lanes, audible alerts, and use of lights and reflective materials.
- The Town of Vail's [Ordinance No. 9](#) set a trial period that allows e-bikes on paved recreation trails. The ordinance limits motors to 500 watts, limits the speed of the e-bike, and requires riders to be 16 years of age or older.
- Steamboat Springs wants its Parks and Recreation Commission to consider allowing some types of e-bikes on both hard and soft surface trails. A [pilot program](#) for the City's Yampa River Core Trail is set to begin this summer.

[Research](#) by Portland State University found that 60% of electric bicycle riders surveyed bought an electric bicycle to enable trips in hilly areas and 73% rode to different destinations than with a standard bicycle. 65% of respondents in that survey said replacing car trips was a main reason to get an electric bicycle. PSU has also created an interactive [map](#) detailing e-bike laws by state and province in North America.

A [study](#) by Navigent Research describes a global e-bike market that is well-positioned for continued growth. The group predicts global sales of e-bikes will grow from over \$15.7 billion in 2016 to \$24 billion by 2025. The report also examines key drivers of growth, including government influence on the market. Further, the League of American Bicyclists examined [e-bikes and public policy](#) and highlighted how national sales exceeded 200,000 in 2015.

While I understand the Commission's concern that allowing e-bikes might set a precedent for allowing other types of motorized vehicles on trails, e-bikes can be viewed differently. Benefits of e-bikes include cost-savings, improved public health, and ease of convenience.

- **E-bikes are not necessarily quicker than traditional bikes.** The average e-bike speed is 15 mph, within most urban and multi-use trails' speed limits. Compared to traditional bikes, where a professional cyclist can reach speeds of 30 mph, e-bikes are designed to provide motorized assistance up to speeds of 20 mph.
- **E-bikes still count as exercise.** Although e-bikes deliver pedal-assisted power, a [study by the University of Colorado, Boulder](#) suggests that e-bikes can still improve cardiovascular health. The CU study measured the improvements in various aspects of health of twenty sedentary commuters through the use of e-bikes. It is important to note that the riders in the study rode at an average speed of 12.5 mph and reported no crashes.
- **E-bikes provide ease of convenience.** E-bikes allow individuals to move farther and easier. Pedal assisted motors provide riders with increased mechanical advantage which aids the rider in moving heavier loads. The pedal assist also helps commuters reduce exertion, generating less sweat, and helps individuals with physical or medical challenges to pedal the bicycle easier.
- **E-bikes reduce cars on the road.** Through the use of e-bikes, the burden on our roadways is lessened. This improves air-quality, eases traffic, reduces road maintenance costs, reduces vehicle accidents, and lowers our community's carbon footprint. By offsetting vehicles on the road with e-bikes, the overall health of the community is improved.

GOCO's stance regarding e-bikes has driven local policy for years. With GOCO's change in position with deference to local governments, communities across the state have evaluated the allowance of e-bikes. We owe it to our businesses and community members to assess their potential use on the Riverfront Trail.

Sincerely,



Greg Caton
City Manager

C: City Council
Rob Schoeber, Parks and Recreation Director



RIVERFRONT COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2477
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502
(970) 683-4333

Sponsors:

Fruita
Grand Junction
Mesa County
Palisade

September 20, 2016

Grand Junction City Council
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Members of the City of Grand Junction City Council:

The Colorado Riverfront Commission is an advisory board to the Riverfront Trail partners; the City of Grand Junction, the City of Fruita, Mesa County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Town of Palisade. As such, we feel very strongly that we must advocate for the continuing ban of motorized vehicles on the Riverfront Trail. This ban does not include ADA compliant devices such as motorized wheelchairs, but refers to recreational vehicles such as electric bicycles (e-bikes), motorized scooters, Segways and all-terrain vehicles. Of particular concern are e-bikes since retailers have become increasingly vocal in their advocacy of trail use by their customers.

Recently the City of Durango dealt with this issue and cited the following concerns:

- Electric-motor assisted bicycles have a set top speed of 20 mph and require the cyclist to pedal to engage the motor. Others have a throttle and go much faster. Although they can give some cyclists a needed boost, the Durango City Council has decided to ban electric bikes on Durango trails. Motorized vehicles have been banned for years on Durango trails and the council has now banned electric bikes whether the motor is engaged or not.

Other relevant concerns are:

- Jeopardizes future GOCO funding since they only fund non-motorized trails.
- Could threaten ~\$20 Million in past funding, i.e. give the money back if you don't ban all motorized use.
- Sets a precedent that opens the door for other motorized vehicles – golf carts, dirt bikes, go-carts, etc.
- Motorized vehicles create a safety hazard for pedestrians and cyclists due to their speed and mass.

We would be happy to come before the Council to further discuss the issue if that would be of help, but as advocates for the ongoing maintenance, improvement and development of the Riverfront Trail we must state our absolute and unanimous support of banning electric bikes from the Trail.

Sincerely,

Frank Watt
Co-Chair
Riverfront Commission

Brad Taylor
Co-Chair
Riverfront Commission



RIVERFRONT COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2477
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502
(970) 683-4333

Sponsors:

Fruita
Grand Junction
Mesa County
Palisade

September 20, 2016

Grand Junction City Council
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Members of the City of Grand Junction City Council:

The Colorado Riverfront Commission is an advisory board to the Riverfront Trail partners; the City of Grand Junction, the City of Fruita, Mesa County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Town of Palisade. As such, we feel very strongly that we must advocate for the continuing ban of motorized vehicles on the Riverfront Trail. This ban does not include ADA compliant devices such as motorized wheelchairs, but refers to recreational vehicles such as electric bicycles (e-bikes), motorized scooters, Segways and all-terrain vehicles. Of particular concern are e-bikes since retailers have become increasingly vocal in their advocacy of trail use by their customers.

Recently the City of Durango dealt with this issue and cited the following concerns:

- Electric-motor assisted bicycles have a set top speed of 20 mph and require the cyclist to pedal to engage the motor. Others have a throttle and go much faster. Although they can give some cyclists a needed boost, the Durango City Council has decided to ban electric bikes on Durango trails. Motorized vehicles have been banned for years on Durango trails and the council has now banned electric bikes whether the motor is engaged or not.

Other relevant concerns are:

- Jeopardizes future GOCO funding since they only fund non-motorized trails.
- Could threaten ~\$20 Million in past funding, i.e. give the money back if you don't ban all motorized use.
- Sets a precedent that opens the door for other motorized vehicles – golf carts, dirt bikes, go-carts, etc.
- Motorized vehicles create a safety hazard for pedestrians and cyclists due to their speed and mass.

We would be happy to come before the Council to further discuss the issue if that would be of help, but as advocates for the ongoing maintenance, improvement and development of the Riverfront Trail we must state our absolute and unanimous support of banning electric bikes from the Trail.

Sincerely,

Frank Watt
Co-Chair
Riverfront Commission

Brad Taylor
Co-Chair
Riverfront Commission

An Act

HOUSE BILL 17-1151

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Hansen and Willett, Becker K., Buckner, Ginal, Hooton, Kennedy, Lontine, Mitsch Bush, Valdez, Winter, Young, Singer;
also SENATOR(S) Kerr and Hill, Gardner, Kagan.

CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-1-102, amend (28.5) and (58) as follows:

42-1-102. Definitions. As used in articles 1 to 4 of this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

(28.5) "Electrical assisted bicycle" means a vehicle having two ~~tandem wheels or two parallel~~ THREE wheels, and ~~one forward wheel~~; fully operable pedals, AND an electric motor not exceeding seven hundred fifty watts of power. ~~and a top motor-powered speed of twenty miles per hour.~~ ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES ARE FURTHER REQUIRED TO CONFORM TO ONE OF THREE CLASSES AS FOLLOWS:

(a) "CLASS 1 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE" MEANS AN ELECTRICAL

ASSISTED BICYCLE EQUIPPED WITH A MOTOR THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE ONLY WHEN THE RIDER IS PEDALING AND THAT CEASES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WHEN THE BICYCLE REACHES A SPEED OF TWENTY MILES PER HOUR.

(b) "CLASS 2 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE" MEANS AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE EQUIPPED WITH A MOTOR THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE RIDER IS PEDALING BUT CEASES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WHEN THE BICYCLE REACHES A SPEED OF TWENTY MILES PER HOUR.

(c) "CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE" MEANS AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE EQUIPPED WITH A MOTOR THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE ONLY WHEN THE RIDER IS PEDALING AND THAT CEASES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WHEN THE BICYCLE REACHES A SPEED OF TWENTY-EIGHT MILES PER HOUR.

(58) "Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle that is designed primarily for travel on the public highways and that is generally and commonly used to transport persons and property over the public highways or a low-speed electric vehicle; except that the term does not include ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES, low-power scooters, wheelchairs, or vehicles moved solely by human power. For the purposes of the offenses described in sections 42-2-128, 42-4-1301, 42-4-1301.1, and 42-4-1401 for farm tractors and off-highway vehicles, as defined in section 33-14.5-101 (3), ~~C.R.S.~~, operated on streets and highways, "motor vehicle" includes a farm tractor or an off-highway vehicle that is not otherwise classified as a motor vehicle. For the purposes of sections 42-2-127, 42-2-127.7, 42-2-128, 42-2-138, 42-2-206, 42-4-1301, and 42-4-1301.1, "motor vehicle" includes a low-power scooter.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-3-103, amend (1)(b) introductory portion and (1)(b)(I) as follows:

42-3-103. Registration required - exemptions. (1) (b) This subsection (1) ~~shall~~ DOES not apply to the following:

(I) A bicycle, ~~electric~~ ELECTRICAL assisted bicycle, or other human-powered vehicle;

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-111, amend (1) introductory portion and (1)(dd) as follows:

42-4-111. Powers of local authorities. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 4 does not prevent local authorities, with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction and within the reasonable exercise of the police power, from:

(dd) Authorizing OR PROHIBITING the use of ~~the electrical motor on~~ an electrical assisted bicycle on a bike or pedestrian path IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-4-1412;

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-221, amend (9); and add (10) and (11) as follows:

42-4-221. Bicycle and personal mobility device equipment. (9) ~~(a) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class B traffic infraction~~ ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2018, EVERY MANUFACTURER OR DISTRIBUTOR OF NEW ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES INTENDED FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION IN THIS STATE SHALL PERMANENTLY AFFIX TO EACH ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE, IN A PROMINENT LOCATION, A LABEL THAT CONTAINS THE CLASSIFICATION NUMBER, TOP ASSISTED SPEED, AND MOTOR WATTAGE OF THE ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE. THE LABEL MUST BE PRINTED IN THE ARIAL FONT IN AT LEAST NINE-POINT TYPE.

(b) A PERSON SHALL NOT KNOWINGLY MODIFY AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE SO AS TO CHANGE THE SPEED CAPABILITY OR MOTOR ENGAGEMENT OF THE ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE WITHOUT ALSO APPROPRIATELY REPLACING, OR CAUSING TO BE REPLACED, THE LABEL INDICATING THE CLASSIFICATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (9)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

(10) (a) AN ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE MUST COMPLY WITH THE EQUIPMENT AND MANUFACTURING REQUIREMENTS FOR BICYCLES ADOPTED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION AND CODIFIED AT 16 CFR 1512 OR ITS SUCCESSOR REGULATION.

(b) A CLASS 2 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE MUST OPERATE IN A MANNER SO THAT THE ELECTRIC MOTOR IS DISENGAGED OR CEASES TO FUNCTION WHEN THE BRAKES ARE APPLIED. CLASS 1 AND CLASS 3

ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A MECHANISM OR CIRCUIT THAT CANNOT BE BYPASSED AND THAT CAUSES THE ELECTRIC MOTOR TO DISENGAGE OR CEASE TO FUNCTION WHEN THE RIDER STOPS PEDALING.

(c) A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A SPEEDOMETER THAT DISPLAYS, IN MILES PER HOUR, THE SPEED THE ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE IS TRAVELING.

(11) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION COMMITS A CLASS B TRAFFIC INFRACTION.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1412, amend (14); and add (15) as follows:

42-4-1412. Operation of bicycles and other human-powered vehicles. (14) (a) (I) ~~Except as authorized by section 42-4-111, the rider of an electrical assisted bicycle shall not use the electrical motor on a bike or pedestrian path.~~ A PERSON MAY RIDE A CLASS 1 OR CLASS 2 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE ON A BIKE OR PEDESTRIAN PATH WHERE BICYCLES ARE AUTHORIZED TO TRAVEL.

(II) A LOCAL AUTHORITY MAY PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF A CLASS 1 OR CLASS 2 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE ON A BIKE OR PEDESTRIAN PATH UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

(b) A PERSON SHALL NOT RIDE A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE ON A BIKE OR PEDESTRIAN PATH UNLESS:

(I) THE PATH IS WITHIN A STREET OR HIGHWAY; OR

(II) THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PERMITS THE OPERATION OF A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE ON A PATH UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

(15) (a) A PERSON UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE SHALL NOT RIDE A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE UPON ANY STREET, HIGHWAY, OR BIKE OR PEDESTRIAN PATH; EXCEPT THAT A PERSON UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE MAY RIDE AS A PASSENGER ON A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE THAT IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE PASSENGERS.

(b) A PERSON SHALL NOT OPERATE OR RIDE AS A PASSENGER ON A CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE UNLESS:

(I) EACH PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE IS WEARING A PROTECTIVE HELMET OF A TYPE AND DESIGN MANUFACTURED FOR USE BY OPERATORS OF BICYCLES;

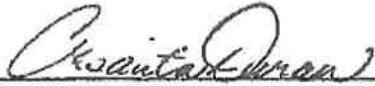
(II) THE PROTECTIVE HELMET CONFORMS TO THE DESIGN AND SPECIFICATIONS SET FORTH BY THE UNITED STATES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION OR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS; AND

(III) THE PROTECTIVE HELMET IS SECURED PROPERLY ON THE PERSON'S HEAD WITH A CHIN STRAP WHILE THE CLASS 3 ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLE IS IN MOTION.

(c) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (15)(b) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE NEGLIGENCE OR NEGLIGENCE PER SE IN THE CONTEXT OF ANY CIVIL PERSONAL INJURY CLAIM OR LAWSUIT SEEKING DAMAGES.

SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless

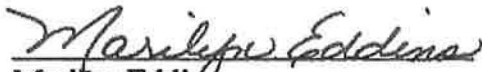
approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.



Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES



Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE



Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

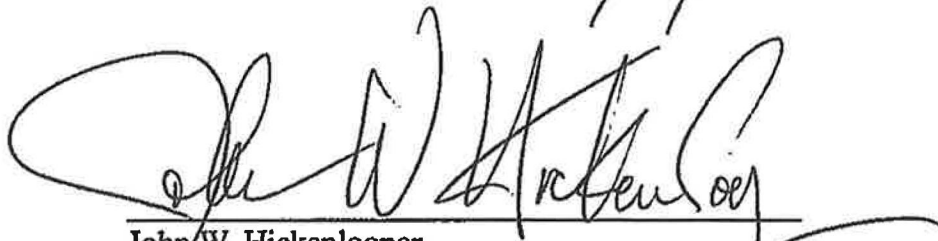


Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

APPROVED

1:45 Pm

4/4/17



John W. Hickenlooper
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO



Letters of Endorsement

Community and Recreation Center Feasibility Study
Support

City Council Workshop: June 5, 2017

Table of Contents:

1. St. Mary's Medical Center, Brian Davidson
2. HopeWest, Christy Whitney
3. Hispanic Affairs Project, Ricardo Perez
4. Hilltop Community Resources, Mike Stahl
5. MindSprings Health, Carol Skubic and Sharon Raggio
6. Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation, Jennifer Clark
7. Primary Care Partners, Mike Pramenko
8. Ariel Community Resources, Rebecca Hobart
9. The Daily Sentinel, Jay Seaton
10. Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, Lisa Fenton-Free
11. Yoga:Vinyassa
12. Grand Junction Area Realtors Association, Lori Wood
13. Bin 707 Foodbar & Taco Party, Jodi Niernberg
14. Emtech, Inc, Michael Anton
15. Boys and Girls Club of GJ, Donna Whetstone
16. Matchett Family
17. Sally Schaefer
18. Joe Higgins
19. Bernie and Mary Beth Buescher
20. Western Colorado Congress

May 9, 2017

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Mr. Caton, Members of the Grand Junction City Council and Grand Junction Community Leaders,

St. Mary's mission calls the organization to work to improve the health status to the communities we serve. For over 120 years our efforts to improve the health of western Colorado communities have ranged from improving access to primary care to bringing specialty services to western Colorado to helping address the needs of the mentally ill. Please accept this letter as a letter of endorsement for the current effort to research and develop opportunities to bring in a community and recreation center to Grand Junction.

We all have experienced the community changes that have taken place in Grand Junction. Over the past several years St. Mary's has made investments to advance and change tertiary and medical acute care for this community. The time has now come for the community to address the recreational needs that have developed over time. There are numerous benefits to having a community and recreation center, benefits that impacts the social emotional and health of our citizens. Numerous communities in western Colorado have a community and recreation center. A feasibility and further research into such a facility in Grand Junction is warranted.

St. Mary's would like to show its support of the People for Local activities and Community Enrichments "PLACE" as they initiate a citizens process to further research a community and recreation center. Their goal is to listen to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive community recreation center. St. Mary's supports their efforts in this process.

Improving the health of the community requires numerous efforts in multiple levels. St. Mary's continues to support a variety of efforts that addresses everything from improving the quality of acute care to making primary care more available. Some of these efforts are beyond responsibilities of the hospital and becomes more of a community and citizen lead process. The effort to research and access feasibility of a community and recreation center is one way to possibly improve the health status of our Grand Junction community and is something that we support.

Sincerely,



Brian Davidson,
President



April 24, 2017

Members of the Grand Junction City Council

c/o: Greg Caton
City Manager
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

Dear Council Members,

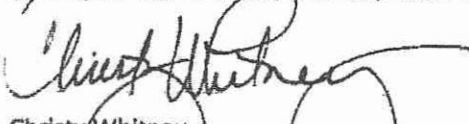
I am writing you today to lend my support of the current effort to bring the Community Recreation Center one step closer through a feasibility study that the PLACE group is putting before Council for funding consideration. Many volunteers continue to be passionate about this need, spending much time, energy and resources to help Grand Junction be a place we can be proud of for children. The effort is impressive.

First, I want to speak as an employer. HopeWest is currently poised to add 200 jobs over the next five years as part of our organization's expansion into PACE and other programs to support our seniors. Many of these new employees will be nurses and physicians. I have readily learned through our past recruitment efforts that a positive environment to raise children is foremost on every candidate's mind. Unfortunately, we do not offer much competitively in this area. Our schools lack in their rankings – as do their funding and we have very little to offer in terms of a place for kids to be after school and on weekends. I believe that if we do nothing to improve both our schools and recreation opportunities for children, we will have great difficulty recruiting jobs, as well as new employers to our City.

Personally, having raised three children here as a single parent, I can share that driving 45 minutes at 4:30 am to Orchard Mesa School from 27 and H Road (leaving grade school children unattended 90 minutes) to take my son to swimming practice was a one year only commitment. I believe that particularly late grade school and junior high age children in our community are truly starving for positive places to grow, learn and experience athletic sports. Today, I have a 10-year-old grandchild here and I am aware of our current situation, and do not feel we have made very much progress in the past twenty-five years.

It is easy on the service to think this Recreation Center is a "nicety" that only a few will benefit from. I could not disagree more. From grade school to seniors our community needs a place to exercise besides outdoor facilities. The closure of the St. Mary's Life Center impacted many seniors who accessed an affordable option. There is always an argument for the private sector to solve these issues, and true, we do have some great private options for exercise. However, these endeavors do not organize activities that are focused on kids building relationships with adults like a Community Center will.

It truly is time. This is important—yes for our health, our physical health and mental health. But it is also critical to growing our local economy in a competitive environment.



Christy Whitney
President/CEO HopeWest



Dedicated to profoundly changing the way our community experiences serious illness, aging and grief one family at a time.

Delta • Grand Junction • Meeker • Montrose • Plateau Valley

HopeWestCO.org

Hispanic Affairs Project



300 N. Cascade Ave, Suite C-4, Montrose CO 81401
www.hapgj.org (970) 249.4115

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 18, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a **Community & Recreation Center** to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), we share the same values and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

The Hispanic Affairs Project is a regional organization working with minority groups in the Grand Valley for over 10 years. We believe that a Recreation Center is critical to bring our community together as we experimented in many other cities across the state recently. We were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center, such as creating:

- A space for immigrant integration for minority groups in the Valley
- A place to promote cultural diversity and cultural understanding in our community.
- An accessible and affordable center that can serve citizens across social, economic and physical barriers.
- An intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more integrated and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and organizations. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Perez, ED
ricardo@hapgj.org
970.417.6127 (cell)



Creating Opportunities. Enriching Lives.

May 10, 2017

Greg Caton, City Manager
Attn: Grand Junction City Council
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort of evaluating the possibilities of creating a Community & Recreation Center in Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), their enthusiasm and vision was impressive, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

Hilltop has a proud history of meeting the needs of our community for over 65 years. We put people first and give them the tools and support they need to face life's challenges. Hilltop's wide-ranging programs offer real world solutions designed to give people of all ages and abilities a chance at long-lasting success. We have seen first-hand the benefits of having a center which brings the community together to meet, move, learn and play. A community and recreation center has great potential for both the physical and mental health of our community.

In line with our agency mission, we were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center. Creating an accepting and compatible place for seniors, at-risk youth and people with disabilities to connect would significantly enhance their lives and their sense of community.

I appreciate the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding community connectedness, economic development, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Michael Stahl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Michael Stahl, CEO
Hilltop Community Resources

Greg Caton, City Manager
Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May, 17 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,
I am writing on behalf of our Board of Directors and staff of Mind Springs Health to lend our support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), I was impressed by their enthusiasm and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

Mind Springs Health is proud to continue to serve Grand Junction and surrounding areas in their behavioral health needs. The idea of having a center that brings our community together to meet, move, learn and play has great potential for both the physical and mental health of Grand Junction. In line with our mission to rebuild lives and inspire hope by providing exceptional mental health and addiction recovery care, strengthening the health and vitality of our communities, we were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center, such as creating:

- A hub for mental and emotional health programs in collaboration with support service providers in Grand Junction.
- An avenue for learning that may address tutoring, healthy eating, mental health and healthy life choices.
- Opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- A great outlet to become or stay strong and healthy through recreation and play.
- Meeting rooms and event space that supports the creation and maintenance of social connections.
- An accessible and affordable center that can serve citizens across social, economic and physical barriers.
- An intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families.
- A nucleus for Grand Junction's park and recreational offerings, which would feature and bolster the quality of living in our area.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding

economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. Increasing community connectivity will only raise all boats. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Carol Skubic

Board Chair



Sharon Raggio

President & CEO

Mr. Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 19, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and City Council Members,

Earlier this month I was approached by a representative from the *People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment* (PLACE) to share their efforts aimed at bringing a community center to Grand Junction. As a suicide prevention professional, I enthusiastically support this initiative.

As you may already know, the suicide rate in Mesa County is 2.5 times the national average. Last year, our community lost 48 individuals to suicide – a record high for our region. Our suicide rate for 2016 came in at 32.2 percent, far higher than both the state (19 percent) and national (16 percent) rates. Of those lost last year, four were youth ages 15-19. Statistics show that each year 1 in 5 kids aged 13-18 experiences a mental health condition.

While there are many contributors to an individual completing suicide, one shared and almost always present condition experienced by those lost was a sense of disconnection to their community, family and friends. We know that most individuals who attempt or complete suicide lacked a solid connection to people, community and life.

Bringing a community center to Mesa County could have a significant impact on our collective community connectedness by offering and promoting opportunities for residents to engage with one another. As our local county, city and nonprofit community leaders participate in formal collaboration efforts around transforming the community to increase our collective connectedness; bringing a community center to our county would be a powerful and tangible action step that would contribute greatly in creating this reality.

Mesa County has experienced the emotional and financial cost of suicide in the workplace, home and social circles for over a decade. Investing in a community center would be a benefit to our county, and would also have a favorable impact on our community's overall mental health and well-being.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration.



Jennifer Clark, *Executive Director*
Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation

Primary Care Partners



Your partners in health

3150 N 12th St. Grand Junction, CO 81506 • PO Box 10700 Grand Junction, CO 81502

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 2nd, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

Primary Care Partners stands in strong support of the efforts to bring a community & recreation center to Grand Junction. The enthusiasm, vision, and leadership of the organizing committee (PLACE) working on behalf of this endeavor is impressive.

Our organization, made of medical practices that have been part of this community for over 40 years, understands the importance of community support for population health. In fact, as evidenced by years of research, the health of a community is more often determined by social determinants of health rather than the high tech applications of modern health care delivery.

Sense of community matters in health care. Recreational and social opportunities matter. And, population health matters to the overall health and prosperity of a city.

Here at Primary Care Partners, we care for thousands of Grand Junction's citizens. We witness the devastating effects of poor health habits and the amazing benefits that come with healthy living. At the same time, many of our patients can't afford a monthly membership to a gym or would like the additional social outlets as envisioned via a community and recreation center.

Indeed, the healthy behaviors and opportunities that our community needs can't be bottled up and purchased at a pharmacy.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive community & recreation center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a community & recreation center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more connected, and healthier Grand Junction benefits the people and businesses of our fine city. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a community & recreation center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Pramenko M.D.
Executive Director
Primary Care Partners



Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 11, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), I was impressed by their enthusiasm and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

Ariel Clinical Services is proud to be a non-profit that serves hundreds of vulnerable children and adults in our community. The idea of having a center that brings our community together to meet, move, learn and play has great potential for both the physical and mental health of Grand Junction. In line with our business philosophy, we were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center, such as creating: A hub for mental and emotional health programs in collaboration with support service providers in Grand Junction.

- Opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- An avenue for learning that may address tutoring, healthy eating, mental health and healthy life choices.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. I am committed to making Grand Junction Colorado the best community for children and families and believe a community and recreation center brings us a step closer toward that goal. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hobart
CEO

2938 North Avenue Suite G
Grand Junction CO 81504
Phone: 970.245.1616
Fax: 970.241.8722

4660 Wadsworth Blvd
Wheat Ridge CO 80033
Phone: 303.703.9351
Fax: 303.703.4500

2145 Academy Circle
Colorado Springs CO 80909
Phone: 719.260.6110
Fax: 719.260.6170

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 9, 2017

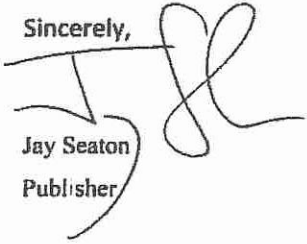
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction.

I believe such a center can be designed that delivers the community/gathering-space amenities that this community lacks while not competing with private enterprise.

Though a rec center does not offer direct economic development benefits, it does make a community more attractive to the type of workforce this community must bring if it hopes to grow in a healthy, sustainable way.

Sincerely,


Jay Seaton
Publisher



Rocky Mountain Health Plans
FOUNDATION

January 23, 2017

People for Local Activities and Community (PLACE)
c/o Western Colorado Congress (WCC)
134 North Sixth Street
P.O. Box 1931
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Dear People of PLACE,

Rocky Mountain Health Plans FOUNDATION is pleased to award \$5,000 towards the costs of conducting a feasibility study in Mesa County in creating a community center for all people in the city of Grand Junction.

Although the concept of a community recreation center isn't new to Grand Junction, we recognize that the time has come to engage our citizens and complete this effort which has the potential to improve the overall health of the community.

An important mission of Rocky Mountain Health Plans FOUNDATION is to partner to improve the health of all Coloradans. Gifts of this sort are made possible by the generosity of many individuals and businesses in our community.

Please notify me once all funding sources are determined and we can send our portion of the cost directly to PLACE.

Best of health,

Lisa Fenton Free
Executive Director



Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

6/1/17

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), I was impressed by their enthusiasm and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

yoga: Vinyassa is proud to offer yoga classes for increased overall wellness for our community. The idea of having a center that brings our community together to meet, move, learn and play has great potential for both the physical and mental health of Grand Junction. In line with our business philosophy, we were excited by the PLACE team's ideas for a Community & Recreation Center, such as creating:

- A hub for mental and emotional health programs in collaboration with support service providers in Grand Junction.
- An accessible and affordable center that can serve citizens across social, economic and physical barriers.
- An intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families.
- Meeting rooms and event space that supports the creation and maintenance of social connections.
- Opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- A great outlet to become or stay strong and healthy through recreation and play.
- An avenue for learning that may address tutoring, healthy eating, mental health and healthy life choices.
- A nucleus for Grand Junction's park and recreational offerings, which would feature and bolster the quality of living in our area.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,
Tessa McInnis Canterbury

From: lwood@ggre.us

Subject: Re: letter of endorsement/Community and Recreation Center

Date: May 13, 2017 at 5:14:03 PM MDT

To: Judith Herr <judyherr45@gmail.com>

I'm happy to tell you that the Grand Junction Area Realtors Association approved the endorsement you requested. We will be getting that to you soon. At least prior to June 5th. I along with the CEO are going to DC for a week, so I'm sure it will be after we return.

Sent from my phone. Please excuse any typos.

Thank You,
Lori R Wood, Broker/Owner
Graystone Group Real Estate



T — A
P A R T Y
C — O

Date: 5/22/2017

To: Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

From: BIN 707 Foodbar & Tacoparty
Jodi Niernberg, Owner
225 N 5th Street
Grand Junction CO 81501

Dear Greg,

I hope this finds you well. As you know I was one of the many passionate supporters of the recently defeated ballot measure, 2A. Obviously, we don't need to rehash why I felt 2A was a vital economic driver for our community (most were probably tired of hearing from me by the end anyway!) but I would like to briefly talk about what we learned through the campaign.

I spent countless hours working towards the passage of 2A. This included working directly with the public many times. It should come as no surprise that one of our main hurdles, which played a large part in the demise of 2A, was the community's desire for a recreation center. The support behind such a center is extremely strong. As frequently as I was faced with questions and concerns as to whether we should pursue an event center when we did not have a community recreation center, I did not come to this conclusion based solely on my experiences.

Shortly after the election The Daily Sentinel conducted a poll. The poll asked people who voted against 2A why they did so. Forty five percent of those responding indicated that they voted "no" because they would rather have a rec center. The Daily Sentinel was quick to inform that of course, these polls are not scientific or statistically reliable, but they have found polls such as this, conducted on their website generally reflect community-wide opinions.

With that background, I would now like to quickly take a few minutes of your time and let you know why I feel it is important that city council listen to the people of Grand Junction that are passionate for a

community center, their numbers are significant, growing and they deserve recognition and the right to present.

I was born and raised here in Grand Junction. I am one of eight children. I am sure I don't have to tell it was often a struggle for my mom to keep us all entertained. My parents were transplants from the Pacific Northwest and were used to having community centers and places like the YMCA to enjoy. Having a place that was focused on a healthy, safe, community building lifestyle was important to them. Not having such a place here in Grand Junction was a disappointment.

Now fast forward almost 40 years. After receiving my education in Denver, Colorado and meeting my husband, we decided to relocate back to Grand Junction to start a family and be closer to my parents. It saddens me that even after 40 years and in a city that is considered a metropolitan area, that we have made zero progress in regards to providing the people of Grand Junction with a community center. A place that would allow people of all ages to meet, move, learn and play.

During a time when the suicide rate among our young people is at an all-time high, levels that could arguably be called an epidemic, I think it is important to take the time to listen to the people, determine what we as a community are lacking and what we desperately need. Our young people deserve so much more than we are currently providing them. Our future depends on young people creating a strong economy and civic society.

I appreciate the citizens leading this effort. They are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is worth serious consideration. Unfortunately, I will be out of town for the council workshop on June 5th, please take and share this letter as my full support of the above-mentioned initiatives. I will continue to "Say Yes to Grand Junction", we deserve it.

Sincerely,

Jodi Niernberg



Grand Junction
819 Pitkin Avenue (81501)
PO Box 429 • Grand Junction CO 81502
Office: 970.242.9980 • Fax: 970.242.9903
Email: grandjunction@em-techinc.com

Craig
120 W 16th Street (81625)
PO Box 1527 • Craig, CO 81626
Office: 970.824.7023 • Fax: 970.824.3621
Email: craig@em-techinc.com

WITH DIVISION:

Rocky Mountain Standby Power
2295 Tall Grass Drive (81505) • PO Box 1805 • Grand Junction, CO 81502
Office: 970.244.0960 • Fax: 970.243.8272 • Email: standbypower@em-techinc.com

May 22, 2017

City of Grand Junction
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction CO 81501

Attn: Greg Caton

Reference: Community Recreation Center

Greg,

I hope this finds you well and continuing to move this city forward. I haven't had the opportunity to speak with you since the night of the election. I can't tell you how disappointed I was and am that the citizens of Grand Junction did not understand 2A as an economic development piece moving Grand Junction forward. However, perhaps we should have focused on the other hotly debated topic of the "Community Center". It does seem that a portion of the city residents see this as that economic development piece, one that would immediately kick start our economy. Not to the scale of an event center, but certainly a start. I also think that there is something to be said for the intergenerational gathering place welcoming youth, seniors, and families.

With some of the challenges facing our youths today, this would become a great outlet in promoting health and wellness, especially the mental and emotional health across all socio and economic barriers. Unfortunately, I will not be available during the council workshop of June 5th, but I would like this letter to be added as a supporter in moving this project forward. This truly is a win-win for all within the City of Grand Junction. The Say "Yes" for Grand Junction campaign is alive and well.

Sincerely,

Michael P Anton

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 15, 2017

Dear Grand Junction Citizens and Leaders,

I am writing to lend my support to the current effort to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community & Recreation Center to Grand Junction. In meeting with the People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE), I was impressed by their enthusiasm and vision, and I urge the Grand Junction City Council to listen to the voices of our citizens.

I am the President elect of the committee to bring a Boys and Girls Club to Grand Junction. In other communities in our state and across the nation the Boys and Girls Clubs work hand in hand with the Community Rec Centers to provide activities to the youth involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs. This is a partnership that is beneficial to the kids and community alike.

Following are the goals I feel we would be an incredible benefit to not only our community but especially for the youth involved with our club;

- An accessible and affordable center that can serve citizens across social, economic and physical barriers.
- An intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families.
- Meeting rooms and event space that supports the creation and maintenance of social connections.
- Opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- A great outlet to become or stay strong and healthy through recreation and play.
- A avenue for learning that may address tutoring, healthy eating, mental health and healthy life choices.
- A nucleus for Grand Junction's park and recreational offerings, which would feature and bolster the quality of living in our area.

I appreciate that the citizens leading this effort are committed to listening to the needs and desires of our community in order to design a truly responsive Community & Recreation Center. Grand Junction continues to need creative ideas to address our issues surrounding economic development and employee retention, suicide prevention, youth activities and better health for all ages. A feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community & Recreation Center could provide is now warranted.

A stronger, more unified and healthier Grand Junction benefits us all as both individuals and as businesses. As part of our city's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in our region, a Community & Recreation Center is definitely worth serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Matchett Family Partnership
4900 Meining Road
Berthoud, CO 80513

Greg Caton, City Manager
ATTN: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

May 15, 2017

Dear Mr. Caton, Grand Junction Citizens and Councilmembers,

We are writing in support of current efforts to bring a Community and Recreation Center to Grand Junction. When our parents and grandparents worked with the City of Grand Junction to establish Matchett Park, their goal was not only to preserve its beautiful vistas, but to provide citizens of Grand Junction with space to learn, play and grow. A new center would be perfectly in keeping with their original vision.

The Matchett Family Partnership is proud of our family's contributions to agriculture, health and education in the Grand Valley. Having grown up on the land that is now Matchett Park, we know how valuable wide-open space can be. We are happy that citizens are already enjoying the park for activities like walking, running, biking and Frisbee golf, and know that our grandfather, "Ken the rancher" would be pleased that much of the land continues to be operated under a farm lease. But as kids we sometimes missed the community activities that our friends who lived in town were able to enjoy, so it made perfect sense to us when participants in the 2014 Matchett Park Master Planning process expressed strong support for a recreation center with amenities like a public fitness center and pool. More recently, we have spoken with the *People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE)*, and agree that Grand Junction would benefit from an accessible and affordable center that could serve the wider health and educational needs of citizens across the social, economic and physical spectrum. Our father, "Ken the doctor" would definitely support this: in addition to dedicating his career to helping patients with cancer and heart disease, he combined his love of patient care with his love of equestrian sports to host the "Hilltop Hospice Benefit Horse Trials" on our property for several years. This undertaking truly brought the whole community together: it utilized countless sponsors and volunteers, intrigued and entertained spectators from all over town, and raised funds to help people suffering from terminal illness. And of course, it was access to educational opportunities that enabled dad to become a doctor in the first place. Dad learned the value of education from his father (our grandfather) who was one of the earliest members of the local school board, and his mother Thelma (our grandmother), who used her accounting degree from Mesa College to manage the farm and ranch books. And he shared that value with his wife Sally (our mother), who was a professor at Mesa State College -- now Colorado Mesa University -- for 27 years, and also served on the board of the Mesa County Public Library District. Not surprisingly, the earliest plans for Matchett Park included dedicated space to build a new public elementary school.

We understand that recent development trends led the school district to sell its 14 acres of back to the city, but for all of the reasons just mentioned we believe that a community center providing both educational and

recreational activities would be a perfect fit for Matchett Park. Such a center could serve a number of purposes and might provide:

- a hub for mental and emotional health programs in collaboration with support service providers in Grand Junction.
- a nucleus for Grand Junction's park and recreational offerings
- an intergenerational gathering place welcoming to youth, seniors and families, including meeting rooms and event space that supports the creation and maintenance of social connections, and opportunities for youth to stay engaged in our community and be exposed to positive influences.
- space for wider community educational activities such as tutoring programs and workshops on healthy eating and healthy lifestyle choices.

Because the best center is the one designed by and for the local community, we agree with the citizens working with *PLACE* that a feasibility study and further research into the design and amenities a Community and Recreation Center could provide is now warranted. A feasibility study will also contribute to Grand Junction's vision of becoming the "Most Livable City" in the region. We wish you every success in that goal.

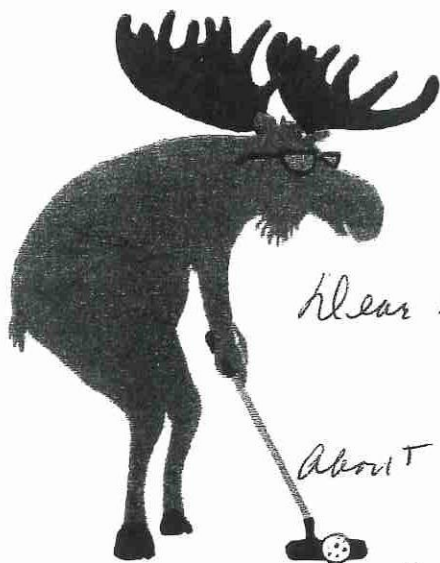
Sincerely,



Nancy Matchett Kubik
The Matchett Family Partnership

5/7/17

Putt it here



Dear Greg,
We have spoken
about a Family Recreation
Center and now I want to put in
a pitch for your help with a
feasibility study. Last I looked, the
City was in the business of recreation!!

This has been a dream a
long, long time in coming and I

Printed in Canada



think our Community would be
(see center)
stronger and more vital with one. I
am particularly concerned about our
elderly, disabled and disadvantaged not
having a place to play.

Whatever support you can
muster for this endeavor would be

appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sally Schaefer

Chair of "Grand Valley Rec
Resources, Inc."

970-250-7716

Sally Schaefer@gmail.com

May 15, 2017

Letter of Support for Feasibility Study for Community and Recreation Center

Greg Caton
Attn: Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th St.
Grand Junction, Co 81501

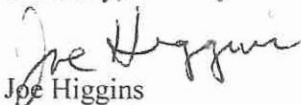
Dear City Manager and Council Members:

As the former director of the Mesa County Partners Program in Grand Junction for over 30 years, I participated in several past discussions and efforts to create a community recreation center in Grand Junction. We are past due on this effort. A feasibility study is the right thing to do. I encourage the City Council to conduct a feasibility study in cooperation with PLACE (People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment).

My hope is that a community recreation center would provide intergenerational services and activities for youth, seniors and families. I would hope that local youth programs such as Riverside Education Center, Boy and Girl Scouts, Partners, and Hilltop Resource Center would participate in collaborative programming and services. I have every confidence in the City's Park and Recreation Department to provide quality programming that benefits are community. The Department has operated the STARS Program and the Bookcliff Middle School activity center in collaborative style with positive results in the past.

Further study into the design and capacity of a Community Recreation Center would be a positive step forward and it needs to be conducted with a large range of local input. Thanks for you consideration.

Sincerely,



Joe Higgins
140 W. Kennedy Ave. Grand Junction, Co 81505

Mary Beth and Bernie Buescher
4350 N. Club Court, Unit B
Grand Junction, CO 81506

May 18, 2017

Greg Caton, City manager
City of Grand Junction
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Members of the City Council, and Manager Caton

We are writing to express our support to evaluate opportunities to bring a Community and Recreation Center to Grand Junction. We are long-time residents of Grand Junction (Bernie was born here), and we own both our home in Grand Junction and commercial property in Grand Junction.

We have met with the organizers for People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment (PLACE) and have reviewed their research. We support their efforts towards developing a center that can provide multiple beneficial uses for our community. We believe that a Community Center can provide space for health and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and across social, economic and physical barriers.

It was over sixty years ago when the great visionary Jane Jacobs wrote *The Life and Death of the Great American Cities*. But the message lives on: for cities to thrive, it must be possible for families to live, play and work in the same areas. The research is compelling that recreational and social opportunities improve a community, and we believe strongly that a Community and Recreational Center would improve the quality of life in Grand Junction.

Please support a feasibility study for this needed community resource.

Sincerely,

Bernie and Mary Beth Buescher



An Alliance for Community Action

Greg Caton, City Manager

ATTN: Grand Junction City Council

250 N 5th Street

Grand Junction, CO 81502

May 5, 2017

Dear Grand Junction City Council,

On behalf of the Western Colorado Congress Board of Directors, I am writing in appreciation of your willingness to hear and consider the proposal for a Community and Recreation Center from "People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment" (PLACE).

In seeking to build a strong and vibrant community, we believe that a grassroots effort of this magnitude represents government by and for the people and aligns with the vision shared by both the city and Western Colorado Congress.

It is our belief that a Community and Recreation Center will meet a variety of needs for the citizens of Grand Junction. City Council's support of a feasibility study is a crucial next step.

As partners in creating an appealing and welcoming Grand Junction, we look to a future where people of all ages feel welcomed, find support, and recreate in safe, healthy environments.

Sincerely, 
Steve Allerton- President

Western Colorado Congress