

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
June 5, 2017 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 5:31 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 7:41 p.m.

City Council Members present: All Councilmembers present except Boeschstein and Kennedy

Staff present: Caton, LeBlanc, Shaver, Rainguet, Schoeber, Wieland, and Tuin

Also: Amy Hamilton (Daily Sentential) Brad Taylor, members of the Riverfront Commission and Foundation, and numerous people representing The PLACE including Andrea Krieves, Kimberly Langston and Dale Reece.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

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

Council President Taggart reviewed the agenda and explained the format for this workshop. Andrea Krieves introduced the members of The Place that were present and the grassroots organization of 10-12 volunteers that partnered with Western Colorado Congress (WCC). Council President Taggart told the audience that this is not a public hearing and will not be opened up to the floor for comments and this only relates to the feasibility study.

Ms. Krieves reviewed the feedback and the results from 800 survey responses. Kimberly Langston talked about themes – affordability, welcoming, and options. Additional discussion included:

- Interact across generations
- Meeting space for sharing
- Hub for resources
- Foster wellness, prevention initiatives
- Building on the existing Comprehensive Plan and Matchett Park Master Plan
- Community Endorsements were provided
- Feasibility Study Components which would include something that fits the needs in Grand Junction, items to be included in the study, and they have the \$25,000 matching funds
- Community health, economic health, physical health, and mental health are at stake
- With YES to Grand Junction on the ballot in April 2017, even though the Event Center failed, the volunteers believe it gave momentum to fast forward towards this idea

- Application for a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) mini grant; partnership with the City, no funds being asked from the City

After a general conversation regarding moving forward with this update, City Manager Caton is looking for a consensus from Council to go forward on the feasibility study. All Council were in favor.

Foreign Trade Zone Update

Greg Caton, City Manager, introduced this topic and explained where the City is to date, that \$100,000 has been added to the budget to continue work on this project.

Diane Schwenke, President of Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, and Kristi Pollard, Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) Executive Director, were both present to give an update of the feasibility of establishing a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) for the area.

Conversations about this began 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. In order to establish a zone here, there must be a Customs Agent within a port of entry which would be the Grand Junction Regional Airport. Ms. Schwenke and Ms. Pollard have been working with the Grand Junction Regional Airport for a location. The space required would need to be approximately 2,500 sq. ft. and could take between 12-18 months to complete. New businesses are asking for a FTZ because there is no FTZ between Salt Lake City and Denver. They are working with a consultant, Sean Lydon, ISCM, Inc., and with the help from the City, an RFP was prepared. Once US Customs has approved the plan for space, an application can be submitted for the FTZ which could take 12 months or more. Ms. Schwenke and Ms. Pollard began getting inquiries from economic development and local government officials in the area about sharing in the FTZ benefits and costs. They have met with Montrose, Rifle, Parachute, and Garfield County officials. The Airport Board is going to put out an RFP to see what it will take to get a part of the building at the airport completed, which is estimated at approximately \$300,000.

Ms. Schwenke reviewed the next steps. Ms. Pollard asked for Council to give the go ahead to go forward with more in depth conversations with the regional partners.

Council President Taggart received a consensus from the Council to move forward and go regional.

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

City Manager Caton introduced the topic from last fall, including rebranding, revenue generating programs, and e-Bikes on Trails.

Stacy Beaugh and Karen Jefferson, both incoming co-chairs for the Riverfront Commission, gave the background on the Riverfront Commission over the last 30 years. They refer to it as the

“30-year Overnight Sensation”. The Riverfront Commission was established in 1987. She listed the accomplishments to date, over 36 miles of trails, enhancements to the trails, and inspired stewardships to the river systems.

The branding needs to be shifted from the Commission to the Foundation. The Riverfront Commission went through a process known as a “One Riverfront” to be able to do more public outreach.

Some of the funding comes from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the foundation is all volunteer, and they decided to get creative to raise funds. A “point of sale” project was described to help raise funds. A feasibility study was done by CMU which included making a flexible program for funding, the funds it could possibly generate, developing a pilot program to start in the next month. It would be re-evaluated one year.

Mr. Frank Watt, co-chair of the Riverfront Commission, introduced the other foundation and commission members present. He explained the letter sent to City Council in September 2016 opposing e-bikes and about 2 days later, GOCO changed their position. City Manager Caton submitted a letter to the Riverfront Commission in April encouraging the Riverfront Commission to study and evaluate the use of e-bikes on the Riverfront Trail. Consistency and how things are signed make it possible to make these mixed uses safe along the trails.

A general discussion ensued regarding research, safety, who is being left out, increased use of trails, other motorized vehicles used, the different types of class of the e-bikes, the State’s position, speed by both types of bikes on the trails, future grants available, enforcement, and moving forward. Riverfront Commission is an advisory board to the City Council. They will not make a decision, but will follow the request of City Council.

City Manager Caton said the consensus is to draft an ordinance which would follow the standards adopted by the State. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will support an ordinance regarding this.

There was consensus to draft an ordinance and move forward from City Council.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

City Manager Caton said the workshop on June 19th there would be a Broadband Update, the Greater Downtown Plan, and the School District will present on the Fall Ballot question.

Agenda Topic 3. Other Business

City Council President Taggart asked about the City’s position on the Paris Accord (Agreement) given several Cities and States have weighed in on this. He suggested to research what Colorado Municipal League’s (CML) position is along with National League of Cities (NLC).

Councilmember McArthur said NLC’s position is going forward with the Paris Accord on their own.

It was agreed to see what others will be doing, monitor what is happening and Councilmember McArthur, as the CML representative, will monitor what is happening and report back to Council.

There being no future business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



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**