

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 62-18

A RESOLUTION REGARDING A 2019 BALLOT QUESTION(S) FOR A COMMUNITY CENTER AT MATCHETT PARK

RECITALS:

For the past 3 years a citizens group known as PLACE – People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment – have dedicated themselves to study, review, plan for and advocate that the City Council develop a new community center and rehabilitate the Orchard Mesa Pool and Orchard Mesa School gymnasium all to provide social, recreational and enrichment facilities, amenities and experiences to the citizens of Grand Junction. For purposes of this resolution those improvements will be referred to collectively as the “Center.”

PLACE’s work in support of a Center has included many community meetings and outreach efforts, citizen surveys, conceptual designs and coordination with the City’s Parks and Recreation Department staff and consultants. On July 16, 2018 the Center study effort culminated with a presentation to City Council. The materials supporting that presentation and the recommendation that the Center be located on the Matchett Park property (“Report”) are incorporated by this reference as if fully set forth. Further incorporated by reference is PLACE’s recommendation for rehabilitation of the Orchard Mesa pool and gymnasium as described in PLACE’s presentation.

The City Council thanks and commends PLACE for its work, its presentation and its admirable example of engagement in intentional community planning, design and development.

Because PLACE is committed to achieving its goal of having a Center in Grand Junction before the year 2025, it has pledged to initiate, for the 2019 City election, the ballot question(s) necessary to support the construction and operation of the Center. At the City Council work session on July 16th, PLACE asked the City Council to refer a question(s) to the April 2019 election rather than PLACE taking up the initiative petition process for a ballot question. PLACE indicated to the City Council that its initiative campaign would be for/include a question to raise the City’s sales tax. The exact amount of the sales tax will be determined but is to be approximately .3 to .75 percent which is intended to defer the cost of construction and operation of the Center and related amenities.

The City Council has contemplated the Report, the presentation and the request and agreed to address those, in general terms, by consideration at its September 19, 2018

meeting of a resolution expressing its intent to refer a ballot question(s) to the April 2019 City election.

While the City Council is supportive of and acknowledges the importance of a Center and will commit to referring a question(s) to the April 2019 City election, a majority of the Council concludes that: a) further consideration of the amount and type of tax increase is necessary; and, b) with and through the development of the City's 2019 budget the City Council will determine the relative priority of a Center *vis a vis* other community needs; and, c) the City Council will carefully, conscientiously and prudently determine, to the best of a majority of the members collective agreement, the proper content of any and all question(s) the Council determines to refer to the 2019 City election ballot. The City Council commends to the City Manager the task of evaluating the same and presenting information and proposed ballot question(s) to the Council in due course.

The mission of the City of Grand Junction is to *Become the Most Livable Community West of the Rockies by 2025*. The City Council fully embraces that mission but it is complicated and difficult to achieve with many competing needs and wants with limited financial resources. To the extent that the PLACE proposal for a Center is consistent with and supports the mission, as that mission is defined by the City Council, the Council is pleased to commit to refer a question(s) the details of which will be determined going forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Junction City Council declares its support for and acknowledges the importance of a community center in Grand Junction and will commit to referring a question(s) to the April 2019 City election as provided herein.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 19th day of September 2018.



Barbara Traylor Smith
President of the City Council

ATTEST:



Wanda Winkelmann
City Clerk

