

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
December 17, 2024**

City Commission Work Session
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Reeves presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tempore Susan Wolff, Rick Tryon, Joe McKenney, and Shannon Wilson. Mayor Cory Reeves was excused.

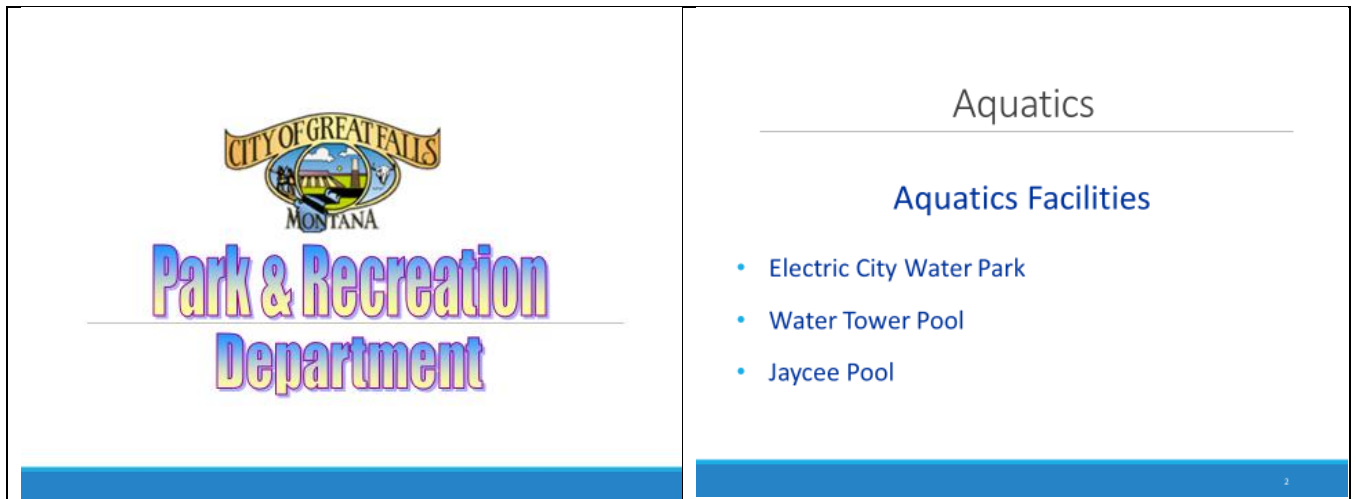
STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Greg Doyon; City Attorney David Dennis; Finance Director Melissa Kinzler; Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig and Deputy Director Jessica Compton; Planning and Community Development Director Brock Cherry; Police Chief Jeff Newton; Fire Chief Jeremy Jones; and, Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

1. FOLLOW UP ON FUNDS NEEDING ATTENTION FROM THE 11/6/24 QUARTERLY BUDGET WORK SESSION

Park and Recreation Director Steve Herrig reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint slides:



JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
December 17, 2024

Aquatics

- **Water Tower and Jaycee Pools**
 - Pool, Slides and Spray Parks
- **Electric City Water Park**
 - Flow Rider, Mitchell Pool, Water Slides, Splash Pad



Aquatics

- **Expand Programming**
- **Explore Grant Opportunities for Programming**
- **Cost Recovery for Aquatics is around 50% Nationally**

SAHBS Recreation Center

- **The new indoor aquatics and recreation center is a critical replacement to the Natatorium that closed in January 2018 and the aging Community Recreation Center.**
- **An aquatic and recreation facility was identified as a visionary project in the 2016 Park and Recreation Master Plan.**
- **The award of the 10 million dollar DCIP Grant was approved by the City Commission on September 15, 2020**

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
December 17, 2024

SAHBS Recreation Center

- The City matched 10 million for the facility, funded by the Park District
- Facility opened July 9, 2024.



9

10



11

Recreation Programs

- Adult basketball and volleyball leagues
- Youth basketball program
- Summer tennis program
- Fitness Classes

12

Recreation Programs

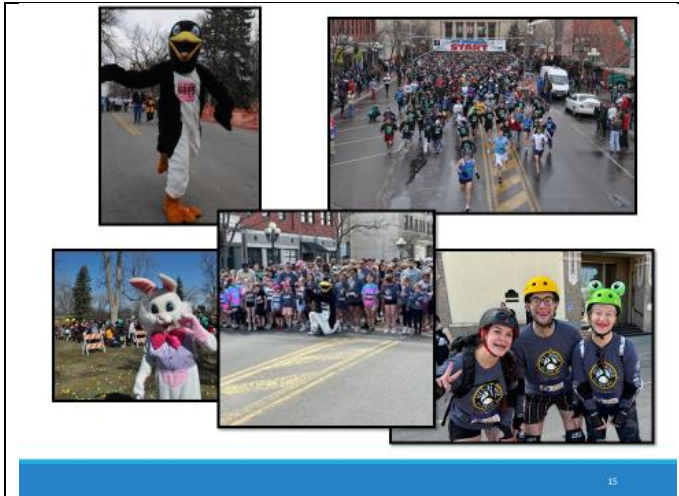
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Lions Family FunFest
- Electric City Winter Classic Basketball Tournament
- Ice Breaker Road Race



13

14

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
December 17, 2024



15



16

Multi Sports

- 8 field complex
- Summer & Fall Leagues
- Tournaments
- University of Providence and School District
- Salvation Army – Flag Football

17

Multi Sports

- Partner Conversations
- Host Additional Tournaments
- Sponsorship & Advertising Possibilities
- Special Events/Clinics
- Does Economic Impact Factor In

18

THE BENEFITS ARE ENDLESS..



19

Discussion/Questions



20

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
December 17, 2024

Park and Recreation Director Herrig explained that the new aquatics coordinator would be exploring grant opportunities and expanding programs. Nationally, the cost of recovery for outdoor aquatics operational expenses is approximately 50%.

Finance Director Melissa Kinzler reported that the cost recovery for the City's outdoor pools is approximately 66% and 52% for neighborhood pools without a subsidy.

Mayor Pro Tempore Wolff received clarification that during the summer there were approximately 4,000 users of the Water Tower, 3,000 of the Jaycee Pool and 32,000 total including the Electric City Water Park. City staff could inform the smaller communities that have closed their pools to utilize the City's pools.

Park and Recreation Director Herrig reported that the Multi-Sports Complex hosts a three-day girls' softball tournament every year and the direct cost to the community last year was approximately \$1.2 million. A two-day adult softball tournament had a direct cost of approximately \$350,000 to the community.

Commissioner Wilson commented that the Park and Recreation programs are important to have for kids.

Commissioner Tryon received clarification that City staff could explore partnering with the University of Providence, Central Catholic School and Great Falls School District with regard to increasing the rental fees or having them maintain/manage the fields they use, to cover the City's costs for the Multi-Sports Complex. Recreational Vehicles are allowed to park for a fee at the Multi-Sports Complex during multi-day tournaments. He expressed support of exploring sponsorship and advertising possibilities for the Multi-Sports Complex.

Commissioner McKenney received clarification that a local option sales tax would be good for the community and businesses; however, it would not help fund City services.

Mayor Pro Tempore Wolff received clarification that Centene would coordinate with the Great Falls School District with regard to providing the High Schools and American Legion with a facility for their baseball games. She further received clarification that the Soccer Club runs the soccer fields.

City Manager Doyon inquired about other field space in the City that would accommodate the usage for softball/baseball, if the Multi-Sports were to be closed. He further inquired if the Multi-Sports Complex would fit on the property that the City was first considering to locate Scheels Aim High Big Sky (SAHBS) Recreation Center.

Park and Recreation Director Herrig responded there would be other field space, especially for the high schools and University of Providence; however, the maintenance of those fields is less than desirable. The property would be a close fit for the Multi-Sports Complex.

City Manager Doyon commented that the property has water and sewer, is attractive for development and something to consider with regard to the Multi-Sports Complex co-locating facilities to maximize usage.

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION

December 17, 2024

Park and Recreation Director Herrig responded that Multi-Sports is impossible to control because it is not fenced in and there is no access control to the facility. He mentioned that beer sales at the Multi-Sports Complex generates a lot of revenue; however, it is difficult to staff and the City pays for the liability insurance and some of the beer license.

Commissioner Tryon commented that if there are other vendors for beer sales, that would need to be considered, so there is not just one vendor doing the whole thing.


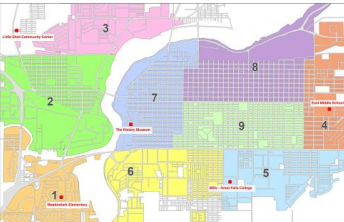


Commissioner McKenney commented that the City needs to be cautious with regard to beer sales. The insurance rates are high for a beer license, there are legal issues and is a high risk.

City Manager Doyon explained that the Parking and Civic Center Events funds would be discussed at an upcoming work session.

2. GROWTH POLICY UPDATE

Planning and Community Development Director Brock Cherry suggested that the Commission read the articles about municipal parking in “*The Electric*” prior to the discussion about the Parking fund.

Planning and Community Development Director Cherry reviewed and discussed the following PowerPoint slides:

 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">City Commission Work Session 12/17/2024: Growth Policy Update</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">WHAT WE'VE DONE</h3> <h4 style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS</h4> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">⚡ JUNE/JULY</th> <th style="text-align: center;">⚡ AUGUST</th> <th style="text-align: center;">⚡ SEPTEMBER</th> <th style="text-align: center;">⚡ OCTOBER</th> <th style="text-align: center;">⚡ NOV/DEC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Neighborhood Council 6 Neighborhood Council 3 Neighborhood Council 9 Neighborhood Council 5 Optimists Club Neighborhood Council 4 Portage Meadows Heather Hoyer Rebecca Engum Finalized Logo</td> <td>Leadership Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3 Stakeholder Meetings Tony Bouales Jane Weber Montana Free Press ABC Great Falls</td> <td>Superintendent Advisory Panel DeAnna Brady-Leader GFP, Good Neighbor Day Radio Interview</td> <td>Downtown Business Roundtable P & Z Board CCHD Bridging Community Kids Education Yes KRTV Interview Launched Website Downtown Trick or Treat</td> <td>KRTV Interview Tavern Association Dinner Virtual Stakeholder Groups Christmas Social Educational Video Launch Existing Conditions Report</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">201 library sign ups</p>	⚡ JUNE/JULY	⚡ AUGUST	⚡ SEPTEMBER	⚡ OCTOBER	⚡ NOV/DEC	Neighborhood Council 6 Neighborhood Council 3 Neighborhood Council 9 Neighborhood Council 5 Optimists Club Neighborhood Council 4 Portage Meadows Heather Hoyer Rebecca Engum Finalized Logo	Leadership Great Falls Neighborhood Council 3 Stakeholder Meetings Tony Bouales Jane Weber Montana Free Press ABC Great Falls	Superintendent Advisory Panel DeAnna Brady-Leader GFP, Good Neighbor Day Radio Interview	Downtown Business Roundtable P & Z Board CCHD Bridging Community Kids Education Yes KRTV Interview Launched Website Downtown Trick or Treat	KRTV Interview Tavern Association Dinner Virtual Stakeholder Groups Christmas Social Educational Video Launch Existing Conditions Report
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<h3 style="text-align: center;">WHAT'S COMING SOON</h3> <h4 style="text-align: center;">JANUARY ENGAGEMENT</h4> <p>Community Wide Survey: Jan. 13th launch</p> <p>5 Community Workshops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monday Jan. 27th @ 5:30pm 2. Tuesday Jan. 28th @ 12:00pm 3. Tuesday Jan. 28th @ 5:30pm 4. Wednesday Jan. 29th @ 5:30pm 5. Thursday Jan. 30th @ 12:00pm <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px; font-size: x-small;"> <p>Draft Workshop Locations</p> </div> </div> <p>GFPS Engagement: Jan. 27 and Jan. 29 @ 10:00am - 3:30pm</p> <p>Planning Advisory Board Presentation: Tues. Jan 28th @ 3:00pm</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">COMMUNITY SURVEY INCENTIVES</h3>  										

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION
December 17, 2024

Planning and Community Development Director Cherry explained that the amount of knowledge the City would gain from a well-received survey would be beneficial to the Commission. He would like to coordinate weekly with City Manager Greg Doyon and Communications Specialist Meredith Dawson weekly with regard to community survey incentives.

Commissioner McKenney suggested offering a variety of incentives for survey participation.

Commissioner Wilson received clarification there is flexibility with regard to the number of site visits from the consultant.

Commissioner Tryon inquired about the number of surveys that would be needed to get a broad sample. He suggested offering a day pass at the SAHBS Recreation Center as an incentive for survey participation.

Planning and Community Development Director Cherry responded that he would like a substantial amount of responses that represents a diversity of residents across the community in different demographics. There would be booths set up at the Great Falls College and University of Providence and the survey would be available in a hard copy and digital form. He is aware that there may be groups that have certain policy preferences and that is why everyone should participate in the survey. He suggested that the Commission attend one of the community workshops.

Mayor Pro Tempore Wolff commented that the population we want to attract for the survey would be the young people, because this is going to be their community long into the future.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

City Manager Greg Doyon reported that the January 7, 2025 work session will consist of a CourseCo Golf Management Agreement update.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Wolff adjourned the informal work session of December 17, 2024 at 6:40 p.m.