



October 16, 2019, Recreation and Parks Commission

Prepared by: Terry Zeller, Community Services Director

Subject: Memo on Update on Projects and Tasks for the balance of 2019

I wanted to update the Commission on the projects, tasks and other priorities underway at the Community Services Department. This memo is for informational purposes only, to generate discussion and bring the Commission up to speed on current activities.

Power Outage and Community Services Activity:

During the outage on Wednesday and Thursday, 549 Main Street (Town Hall) was under generator power, and conducted normal business hours and had classes and rentals uninterrupted. We were also a stop for those who needed to use restrooms and power phones or use Wifi to communicate. The outage was smooth for us here at Town Hall.

Amgen Bike Race Preparations for Host City Consideration:

The City is continuing to work on the functional aspects needed to be provided for a Host City, including establishing a working group with the County to gauge Placerville's ability for hotels, press and team parking, and the logistics necessary to close roads and provide space for a start area. Amgen will be announcing their picks for Host Cities on November 19th.

Lumsden Park Restroom:

The restroom was successfully removed on Wednesday, October 9th. The lawn area continues to have a working irrigation system, but does need to be turned on manually, and we will do this around once per week in order to keep the grass alive. There has not been any noticeable retaliation for the demolition from the homeless, and the removal went without a hitch. I will be coming back to the Commission in the next couple of months to initiate a discussion on the long term design and use of the park. This process will include public participation in order to do what the community wants in respect to the amenities that stay or are enhanced to promote more use by the community.

Electrical & HVAC project (Citywide):

The City has entered into a large contract with Johnson Controls to provide retrofit electric lighting led fixtures to replace those in multiple public buildings including City Hall, Town Hall, the PD building, Historic City Hall and the Sewage Treatment Plant. The contract also calls for new efficient HVAC equipment at City Hall, Town Hall and the PD building. Crews will be working in all these buildings on the light portion of the project until Thanksgiving, and the HVAC portion of the project will go on through the winter after the permits and equipment is available.

Homeless Camps and the Lighted Candle Nonprofit

Working on a verbal agreement to provide a space to store containers holding supplies for The Lighted Candle in exchange for help in cleaning up homeless camps, the City looked at several City Property sites, but none of these met the needs of The Lighted Candle. Recently, a private property site was determined to meet these needs, and so the City entered into a MOU with TLC to improve the private site in exchange for the cleanup help. It is expected

that this MOU will save the City many thousands of dollars through the work and effort of volunteers coordinated through The Lighted Candle to focus on total cleanup of areas along lower Main Street and other sites on City Property.

City Park Restroom Gates:

Bolton Welding has been working on fabricating steel gates that will be installed on the restrooms at City Park on Benham Street. The ongoing problem for these restrooms is misuse and overnight shelter both inside the restrooms and in the alcoves of the restroom doors. A solution that is being tried is the installation of timer-lock gates in front of the alcoves which will allow the restrooms to be locked down automatically at a certain time of night, keeping people from trying to camp or use drugs inside the restrooms at night. Currently, the issue is a nightly one, and our staff or MORE Industries has to clean up the debris and drug paraphernalia each morning. With the gates, it is hoped that this use will greatly decrease. The gates are being funded through a grant from our Risk Management and Insurance Agency, who provide funds to combat costs created through activity that impacts Cities such as Placerville. The gates will stay open

Historic City Hall:

Last month, the Placerville City Council heard a single presentation for reuse of Historic City Hall at 487/489 Main Street (the Ketchup and Mustard Buildings) from Arts & Culture El Dorado. This nonprofit group was approved as a party to negotiation of a lease outlining the renovations and use of the buildings. Two current City projects have been approved and are in various stages of being executed: A roof project that is on hold pending a second project to shore up the building's west brick wall. The building was determined to be at risk of failure if the roof project were to be performed without stabilizing the wall. Engineering has been completed to support the building, and I am awaiting a construction estimate in order to plan next steps. It is expected that the shoring will happen this winter, and the roof project will proceed in some form following that shoring work.

Prop 68 Grant:

In July, I worked with Kristin Hunter of EN2 Resources to finish up a grant application started by Development Services and the City Engineer focusing on restoration of a section of Hangtown Creek, from Clay to Locust Streets. The grant involves native plant restoration of the creek banks, and the construction of a seatwall, bridge to the Ivy Lot and an Informational Kiosk outlining the project. The total grant amount, if awarded, will be over \$500,000 with no City match necessary. Kristin Hunter of EN2 thinks that we will know about the award in November or December.

Community Pride Projects:

Each year, the City funds \$1500 for various planter beds in the downtown area, and these beds are taken care of by volunteers that constitute the former Community Pride organization. They have since disbanded, but a good amount of the volunteers still manage their beds, and put in requests for the funding each year. Over and above these beds, there are two other projects being managed through Kathi Lishmann: The Ore Cart Garden across 50 on Bedford, and the Monument Garden project, which had its first phase with the bell and Veteran's monument installed along the Southeast corner of Bedford and Hwy 50, along the side of the former DA's office, where the Christmas tree stands. There are funds to develop

the second phase of the Monument Garden, which will have lights, a paver area with benches around the Bell, and a planting area designed by Cary Friar of First Impressions Landscaping. This project is expected to be completed sometime this Spring, and we will have a dedication scheduled to celebrate the final phase.

Placerville Aquatic Center Inflatable and Diving Board:

The inflatable at the pool has been a very successful and in-demand attraction, and we will continue to offer it on certain days of the week next pool season. One adjustment that may be able to be done will be to move the diving board over a few feet. Currently, the diving board cannot be used when the inflatable is in the pool, but it looks like there is enough room to allow both uses by moving the diving board east. Matt and I will update the Commission on any progress with this move.

This concludes the update of projects and initiatives underway for the Community Services Department. I will plan on making this summary a quarterly agenda item if the Board finds it useful.