

MINUTES
SPECIAL WORKSESSION/ROUNDTABLE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CONFERENCE ROOM 142, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
February 25, 2020
12:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Morris, Watts, Knight, McClendon, Shoop, and Mayor Nicholls

Councilmembers Absent: none

Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Philip A. Rodriguez
City Attorney, Richard W. Files
Deputy City Administrator, Jay Simonton
Police Chief, Susan Smith
Asst. Director Community Development/Zoning Administrator, Alyssa Linville
Public Works Director, Joel Olea
City Engineer, Jeff Kramer
Public Works Manager, Mike Flowers
Human Resource Director, Monica Welch
Police Lieutenant, Mike Wilcher
Fire Captain, Steve Legros
Chief Information Officer, Kathy Fernandez
Parks & Recreation Director, Debbie Wendt
Various Department Heads or their representative
City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

Welcome

Mayor Nicholls welcomed everyone in attendance. **Rodriguez** provided a brief overview on what is politically acceptable and administratively sustainable, and the roles that staff and City Council play in both modules. He stated the agenda is based on recommendations from City Council and staff is ready to present fact-based information on these topics. **Rodriguez** went on to say there will be no action taken at the Worksession, however, City Council can give direction for specific items to be brought forward at a future meeting.

Open Meeting Law

Files stated that the Open Meeting Laws apply to this Worksession as they do with any other public meeting attended by a quorum of City Council. **Files** further explained that if City Council needed to consult with the Attorney during the Worksession that it is provided for on the agenda and they can do so by making a motion to recess into Executive Session.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Development or Disposition of City Properties

Hotel Del Sol Property

Simonton briefed City Council on the background of the Hotel Del Sol property, stating the City has applied for both the TIGER and BUILD grants for several years, with the intent of building the facility into a Multi-Model Transportation Center. Although the City's applications have been unsuccessful, there is still time to apply for the 2020 grant cycle if that is City Council's direction. If the desire is to change the use of this facility, the City may be obligated to pay back the funds that were used to purchase the building.

Discussion:

- The City's BUILD grant made it through the state/federal review process and was considered up until the end. Longevity pushes these grants along and it is worth attempting another grant cycle. **[Mayor Nicholls]**
- The BUILD grant is \$14 million, but the estimated construction costs, of the current plan, are in excess of the grant funding. Research can be done to see what could be completed with the \$14 million and if the City could raise the additional money while utilizing the usable space. **[Morris/Watts/Simonton]**
- This is a project that needs community engagement; private/public partnerships, the County or other options need to be looked into. There was talk of a statement of interest from the private sector; this will also be looked into. **[Mayor Nicholls/Knight/Shoop/ Simonton]**
- The building is in the Historic Registry and if restored could promote additional tourism. **[Mayor Nicholls/Knight]**
- Multiple uses for the building and layouts were discussed, as well as how well the location it to the proposed Multiversity Campus and downtown area **[Mayor Nicholls/ Knight/Shelton]**
- The market may not sustain a rebuild, however, the City has been approached with some interest to rebuild for other purposes. **[Mayor Nicholls/McClendon/Rodriguez]**

Riverfront Properties

Files briefed City Council on the complex background of the multiple agreements within the 2004 Master Development and Disposition Agreement (Master DDA) related to the City-owned Riverfront properties, which includes: six amendments, two partial assignments, restated once and recorded at least 9 times. **Files** noted the City has approximately 7 acres of remaining undeveloped parcels. However, under the current Master DDA the advantages of the original lease structure are no longer available without another amendment, and it will take the Attorney's Office 6 months to a year to untangle these undeveloped properties from the Master DDA. **Files** stated that a parking structure was part of the original proposal and has never materialized. **Files** concluded by asking City Council what their ideas and vision are for this area.

Discussion:

- Parking is essential to this area and could be accomplished through public/private partnerships. **[Mayor Nicholls]**
 - Better parking needs to be established so visitors do not have to worry about driving anywhere once they are in the downtown/riverfront areas. **[Watts]**

- Envisions the Riverfront area as an Entertainment District, and as such the businesses should be fitting to better connect with this image. [**Shelton/McClendon**]
- Discussions should take place regarding what this area should be marketed for: families, business, etc... so that the City can better connect the remaining properties. The City should be seeking sources of funding that are affordable – grants are not always the best way to go. [**Shoop**]
- Sees the Riverfront similar to downtown, where there is a lot of activity going on and although it is not floundering, it may be beneficial for the City to look into a new plan. [**Mayor Nicholls**]
- Private sector needs to be involved to determine what will work best. The City needs a clear picture after the properties are untangled first. [**Knight**]
- The area is currently of mixed-use designations. The City should not over-regulate this area. City Council should be involved with setting the framework, but should not dictate what goes where. [**Mayor Nicholls/Morris/Linville**]
- City Council needs to revisit any designated plan for this area and refocus. [**McClendon**]

B. Zoning and Land Use

Linville briefed City Council on the City's zoning and land uses, stating the initial Zoning Code was adopted in 1952 and there was a full comprehensive update completed in the 1990's. **Linville** noted that updates are necessary for many reasons; however, most are driven by community needs.

Linville stated that staff has been actively engaged in working on several amendments, including: an update to the lighting code, to address the standards for LED lighting; and, the sign code to create a more user friendly document and addresses digital signs. Updates take time, **Linville** said, so prioritizing these efforts is essential. In conclusion, **Linville** asked what City Council may be looking to amend.

Discussion:

- Digital signs and murals are important, but there is also some importance in reviewing the timeframe it takes to get items through Planning and Zoning – so that the City can ensure the individuals who want to invest in the City are not held up. It would be helpful if the process were streamlined. [**Mayor Nicholls/Shoop**]
- Mobile food trucks should be held to same tax rules and local laws as the businesses they are competing with. [**Knight**]
- Tiny houses are allowed in mobile parks, but not in subdivisions at this time. [**Shelton/ Linville**]
- If sheds are plumbed, wired and/or rented they are considered an Accessory Dwelling Unit. [**Shoop/Linville**]

C. Rights of Ways and Medians

Linville began the presentation by stating Public Works and Community Development have worked closely over the past few years to address the landscaping requirements along the roadways, as well as within medians and basins and insuring their efforts are in the best interest of the community. **Linville** summarized the efforts made from 2016 through 2018, which included:

- Working with local landscape professionals to formulate a list of recommended plants that are

well adapted to Yuma’s desert climate.

- Worked on a plan to convert basins and medians into a xeriscape landscape design that requires low irrigation and minimal maintenance.
- Provided a mechanism for long-term funding of landscaping of medians/parkways and basins adjacent to or within subdivisions.

Olea added that they engaged with the local contractors, and over an 8-month period discussed the new plan related to types of plants, materials and watering schedules. Through site visits they further discussed enhancements and capitalized on any existing plants and trees, with the goal of only rehabilitating what was necessary. **Olea** stated they also looked for areas that would bring cost savings and surveyed areas in the community that needed to be addressed, such as the gateways. **Olea** concluded by informing City Council (of the example basin in the presentation) that since the plan has been in place the City has cut the maintenance down by over 2 hours twice a month, and the new plants that are growing naturally and the xeriscape has improved the storm water percolation.

Discussion:

- Need a balance of civic pride and community needs, as well as a focus on heat relief when making future conversions. [**Mayor Nicholls**]
- The City should tap into realtors for input; it will be another way to bring the community together as one voice. [**Shoop**]
- The median on 32nd Street, from 3E to Arizona, needs some attention in order to give a better impression. [**Knight**]

D. Streets and Roadways

Kramer gave City Council an overview of the system-wide needs that include the deterioration of pavement due to years of deferred maintenance and the limited funding. **Kramer** explained there are multiple expenses that pull from the same funding bucket and noted that the direction received at the past Council Retreat was to focus on pavement replacement for arterials and collector roads. **Kramer** reviewed the current projects that are under construction and in pre-construction.

Olea reviewed the 2017 road assessment, in which 400+ miles of the City’s roadway network were reviewed. The results were:

Pavement Grade	2018 Road Miles	Road Miles %
Very Good	134	33%
Good	59	14%
Fair	84	21%
Poor	91	22%
Very poor	40	10%

Olea referred to a ‘tidal wave’ the consultant spoke about in 2018 when he presented to City Council. The tidal wave referred to is the 91 miles that are noted as *poor*, but projected to move into a *very poor* pavement grade if not maintained properly. **Olea** stated that after Proposition 411 failed, they knew something had to change to bridge the gap. In rethinking road treatment, Public Works reached out and

engaged with the contractors. He noted that the Type 2, 12 pound slurry seal used is not designed for roads in poor conditions, so next month they are increasing their application to 20 pounds per square yard, to extend the pavement process. **Olea** introduce Public Works Manager, **Mike Flowers**, who provided information on a fiber slurry product that the City recently tried on a stretch of *very poor* road. It has been 3 months since that application and the product has held up well; Public Works will be monitoring the road throughout the summer months. **Olea** stated that these thicker products may help us bridge the gap, but the City still has 60 miles of road that require reconstruction.

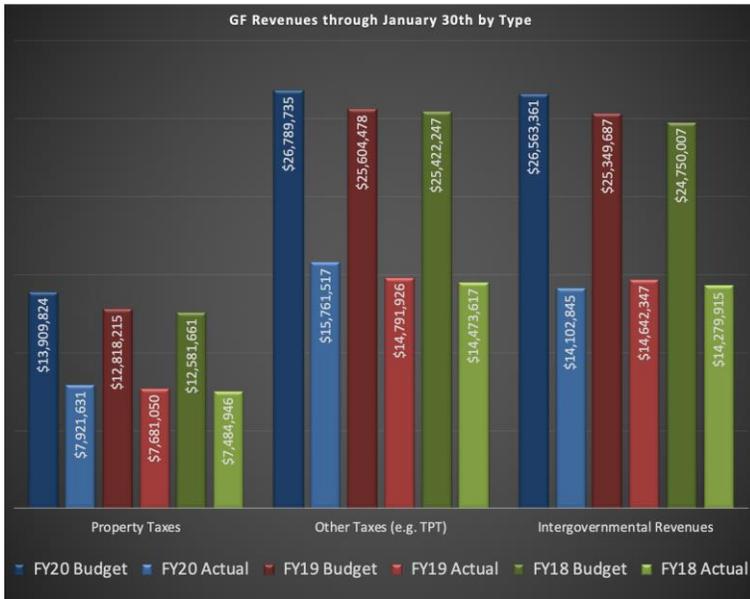
Discussion:

- Relating to the Avenue 3E project, a new paving technology was used, the road was repaved in one week, is holding up well and the product is less expensive to apply. [**Mayor Nicholls/Kramer**]
- Approximately 60%-70% of the roads deemed *poor* are in neighborhoods and it would cost a minimum of \$13 million annually to reconstruct these roads or approximately \$8 million annually just to sustain. [**Shoop/Olea**]
- Money was not received by MCAS-Yuma to maintain Avenue 3E; however, they are looking to move their front entrance to County 14th, which will take quite a bit of traffic away from Avenue 3E. [**Shelton/Knight/Mayor Nicholls**]
- The City is typically applying sealant to 30 miles of roadway each year. [**Watts/Olea**]
- Although the 20-pound product is more expensive, the City is anticipating it will increase the longevity of having to reconstruct the roads. [**Morris/Olea**]
- The American Road Patch product is being purchased by the roll, due to the cost of a pallet. The product works well on potholes in tandem with slurry seal. [**Shelton/ Flowers**]

Mayor Nicholls recessed the meeting at 1:52 p.m. and reconvened at 2:07 p.m. with all the above noted City Council in attendance.

E. City Finances

Rodriguez provided an overview of the City's current revenues, stating the fiscal year is 58% complete. He displayed the below graph tracking where the City taxes currently are in this budget process and noted that although they are tracking okay, they will need to increase in the next months.



Rodriguez reviewed House Bill 2899, referred to as the Gas Tax, and stated if it passes it is likely to double what the City typically receives over the next 3 fiscal years. He noted that limited funding is a reality, so this would be a real value to the City.

Rodriguez made the following recommendations:

1. Revisit the budget process and roll out a forum for community input, similar to the Mayor’s neighborhood meetings.
2. In future years the City could expand the forum to interactive tools for the communities input in a meaningful way.
 - a. He displayed a screen for the *Balancing Act*, which is a tool used by the City of Phoenix that allows the user to move money within the budget areas, but still requires them to balance the budget. It also has a section where they would type their justifications for the transfer.
3. Proposed implementing quarterly reports, one each quarter, with the 3rd quarter report being a forecast of the upcoming budget cycle and the fourth report being a summary of the year-end.

Discussion:

- Public access is great, but deciding on the best tool may be difficult. [**Mayor Nicholls**]
- Tangible items would need to be presented so the public could be educated on the budget process and the tool would build confidence in the City’s transparency. [**Knight/ Rodriguez**]
- The City needs to create avenues where the community feels comfortable in engaging with us. [**Rodriguez**]
- The City is working to move the budget process up in order to get information out earlier so the input of City Council and the public will be more of value to the process. [**McClendon/Rodriguez**]
- The recommendations presented are a good forum to educate and show transparency and once summarized, the data will be beneficial to City Council. [**Shelton/Watts**]

F. Employee Recruitment and Retention

Welch stated that last year the City suffered the highest turnover (13.97%) in the past 10 years. During

the exit reviews, healthcare costs were noted as the #4 reason for leaving the City's employment; pay was #1. Some of the main concerns heard in this area were: employees cannot provide healthcare benefits for their dependents due to the cost; and, employees have declined promotion opportunities because it would result in the loss of AHCCS coverage for the family. **Welch** advised that the City does not offer bad healthcare plans. However, other employers offset their employees benefit costs by 70% or more, whereas the City offsets the costs by approximately 40%-60% of the plan.

Welch concluded with the following suggested options:

- The City prepare a survey to send to the employees asking how we can better serve them with healthcare.
- The City increase the employer offset amount - in phases if necessary

Discussion:

- Although the deductible and co-pays were not compared with other cities/town, the main concern was the amount coming out of the employees paychecks [**Mayor Nicholls/ Welch**]
- The City has two votes through the consortium; however, there is minimal competition of medical providers in Yuma. [**Shoop/Welch**]
- Plan B and the High Deductible Healthcare Plan (HDHP) are more popular as they offer better options for spouse coverage. [**Morris/Welch**]
- The consortium has implemented many alternatives to help keep employee costs down, such as:
 1. Allowing reimbursements for those that seek medical care in Mexico
 2. Providing a Blue Book app that shows what the expected rate will be for certain services and options for where to go for the best rate
 3. Pre certifications for certain services
 4. Wellness activities [**Shelton/Welch**]
- Healthcare costs are difficult to control. Subsidizing is within the City's control and could be considered or offering other incentives to offset the employee costs. [**Watts**]
- Healthcare costs have been a concern of the employees for the past 10 years, according to Exit Interviews with Human Resources. Receiving more pay after the 2nd phase of the LMS is unlikely to change this. [**Knight/Welch**]
- Employees must work 28+ hours a week in order to be considered full-time and receive healthcare. Part-time employee coverage has not been researched at this time. [**Shoop/ Shelton/Welch**]

G. Public Safety Equipment

Wilcher gave an overview of load-bearing vests (LBV) versus universal vests and duty belts. He noted that the main issues with the universal vests are they are extremely hot in the Yuma summers and the duty belts weigh 30 pounds on average when loaded with the officer's necessary equipment, which sits on the officer's hips creating lower back pain. Whereas the LBV distributes the weight of the duty belt throughout the vest making it more comfortable and easier for the officer to wear for longer periods. They are also made from a material that allows the wearer to stay cooler. **Wilcher** stated the vests cost \$240 each and Yuma Police Department would need approximately 174 to outfit the current staff.

Legros provided statistics related to cancer among firefighters and recommendations of what can be done to prevent local firefighters from becoming at risk. **Legros** stated that under ARS Title 23, Section

901.01 there is language that identifies the direct connection between conditions under which work is performed and the occupational disease (cancer). He went on to note the main hazard is the prolonged exposure to known carcinogenic chemicals either by incomplete decontamination of turnout gear when returning from a call, re-using contaminated gear on subsequent emergency responses and transportation of contaminated gear inside the cab of the emergency vehicles. **Legros** stated best practices would require each firefighter to have two sets of turnouts, enhanced decontamination and cleaning of gear at the site and before getting into the vehicle, and not allowing contaminated gear in the vehicles.

Discussion:

- Three of the current Fire Stations have the proper washing facilities needed for the turnout gear; one more washing facility is needed for Station #5. [**Irr/McClendon**]
- Having the proper building suppression and ventilation helps to mitigate the exposure. However, there are so many man-made products in the buildings that are just by products for combustion which makes it non-beneficial for firefighters. [**Shoop/Legros**]
- There is a current bill going through legislation that addresses ‘occupational exposures’. [**Shelton/Legros**]

H. Right To Bear Arms

Fernandez stated there are two compelling cases that present themselves: the United States Constitution language and the fact that the Arizona Constitution allows for a permit-less carry or Constitutional Carry state. **Fernandez** stated, according to Constitutional language, the right to bear arms is not unlimited or without restrictions and also notes the right of the people to keep and bear arms is further protected from infringement by state and local governments under the Ninth, Tenth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Displaying the hierarchy of government authorization, **Fernandez** stated the United States Constitution is supreme law, it is the least restrictive, but most difficult to change. The city/county ordinances are the most restrictive, the easiest to change and typically have the largest impact on everyday life. Bottom line is the United States and Arizona Constitution will protect the citizens under the 2nd Amendment.

Fernandez noted this issue is a state-wide concern and displayed eight bills that are currently being discussed by Arizona legislators – all focused on the right to bear arms.

Discussion:

- Elected Officials take an Oath of Office to uphold the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions. A sanctuary city creates the concept we can opt out of laws, whereas the 2nd Amendment, which is law, already allows you to protect yourself. [**Mayor Nicholls**]
- Due to the four new bills introduced to remove 2nd Amendment rights from the Arizona Constitution, City Council can make an impact on our Legislators by signing a resolution in support of the 2nd Amendment. [**Knight**]
- Oath of Office supports all amendments, why sign a resolution that only reaffirms our support of one. By signing we still don’t have control of what does end up passing as law. [**McClendon**]
- In consideration of the current bills that have been introduced, supporting the resolution should not be an issue. [**Morris**]
- Doesn’t support creating controversy when we already support the constitutions and the laws within them. [**Watts**]
- No issues with the right to bear arms, however, City Council needs to see there are various issues

under fire – not just the 2nd Amendment. [Shelton]

- This is an issue that City Council needs to work through and not let it separate them. [Mayor Nicholls/ Watts]

I. Bikeways Plan

Kramer began with a history of the Yuma Bikeways Plan (Plan) that was adopted by City Council in 2019. He noted there is a diverse group of internal and external stakeholders that assisted in preparing this document. **Kramer** stated that although the majority of projects included are not programmed/budgets for, but rather projects of opportunity, the City's efforts last year included:

- 1.4 miles of bike lane on each side of Avenue 9E
- 0.7 miles of multi-use pathway on Avenue 6E at Driftwood
- Addressed problematic bike lanes on 22nd Avenue, from Avenue A to 4th Avenue, to Sharrows [markings on the pavement that designate a roadway as a shared lane for vehicles and bicycles]
 - This was the first implementation of Sharrows in Yuma
- Multi-use pathway along Airport Frontage (32nd Street)

Kramer noted there are various challenges in the way of implementing this Plan, such as funding, educating the user on safety, lack of available rights-of-ways, resistance from some stakeholders and a disconnected plan. However, he suggested the following opportunities can also be an option:

- Projects within the Plan can be included with street and CIP projects in the same area.
- Utilize grants, partnerships and remnants of the Road Tax as funding sources
 - Partnerships to consider are developers, schools and the irrigation districts
- Bring in a Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator position to coordinate program implementation, provide safety education and to assist with developing partnerships
- Update the Plan to include all transportation system elements and coordinate with the General Plan and YCIPTA

Discussion:

- Grants may assist with canal work and utilizing roadway millings may be an option. [Mayor Nicholls/Kramer/Olea]
- Tying in the transportation element would be an added long-term benefit to the City. [Morris/Kramer]
- Connectivity needs to include areas that are currently not in the Plan when updating. [Shelton/Knight]

J. Privatization of City Services and/or Facilities

Wendt reviewed the current daily maintenance/landscaping responsibilities of the Parks & Recreation Department. This includes 845 acres across the City consisting of: 36 parks, 2 municipal golf courses, 11 athletic complexes, 19 City buildings, 9 community centers and 3 swimming pools. **Wendt** noted the level of maintenance is dependent on the facility.

Wendt went on to explain the Parks Maintenance division is also responsible for:

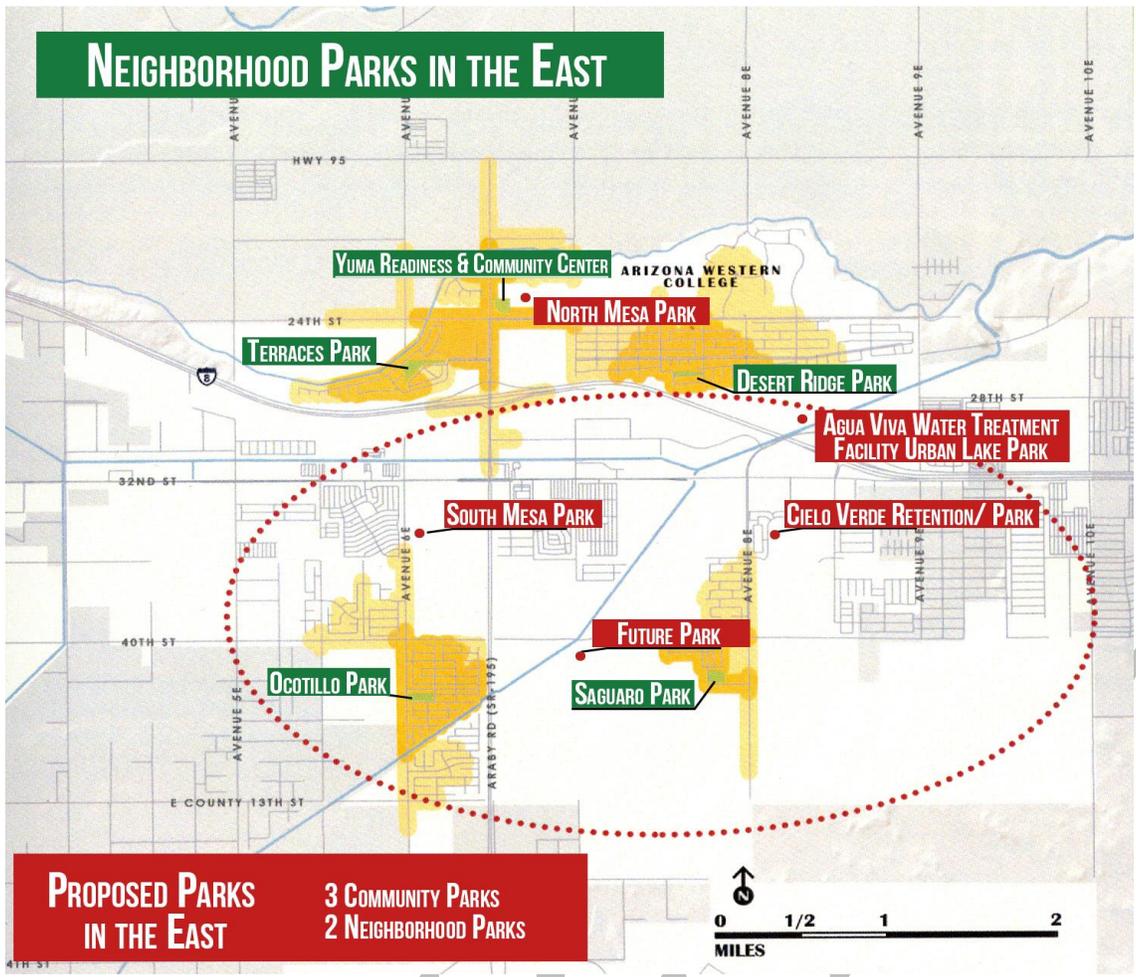
- Event support at the Yuma Civic Center, the Art Center and for recreational activities, as well as private events held at City facilities and in the downtown area.
- Special projects such as constructing ramadas, sidewalks, block walls, fencing, irrigation systems and playgrounds for City facilities.

To address cost saving efforts, **Wendt** stated Parks & Rec utilizes inmate labor for much of the maintenance. The maintenance crew also uses growth inhibitors throughout the parks to slow down the turfs growth; resulting in a reduction of necessary mowing. They also have converted 7 sites to utilize the Xeriscape landscaping cost savings.

Discussion:

- Since transportation is one of the challenges of working with the inmate crew, the City may be able to assist with offering up one of the Parks & Rec vans. [**Mayor Nicholls/ Wendt**]
- Some of the challenges with the bids received in 2017 were background checks and contractors pulling out. [**Morris/Wendt**]
- Would like to see another proposal prepared that includes all overhead costs, to see if the City can save money. [**Morris**]
- Parks & Rec is always looking to be more efficient. The challenges of privatizing services may be fluctuating schedules and quality control. [**Watts/Wendt**]
- There is specific staff assigned to work at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (PAAC); some may also work in other areas such as the Civic Center – it is part of their responsibilities, they are not overstretched. [**Shelton/Wendt**]
- Although only 6 of 19 licensed contractors downloaded the bid materials, the information was made available online and letters were sent out. [**Morris/Wendt**]
- The original bid packet was sent to City Council. [**Mayor Nicholls**]

K. Park Facilities



Wendt displayed a map and gave the following overview:

- Yuma East begins at Avenue 6E going east to Avenue 10E.
- Neighborhood Parks in this area average approximately 5 to 15 acres with open green space playgrounds, picnic areas and walking paths. They are located in the housing developments within a 1/4 - 1/2 mile walking distance from the residents.
- Community Parks are larger, 15 – 25 acres, and serve the population within a 1 to 2 mile distance. They typically include natural landscaped areas or open space, lighted walking paths, restrooms, ramadas, picnic areas, and may also have a man-made lake, athletic fields or swimming pools.

Wendt continued, stating that there are 3 proposed Community Parks and 2 Neighborhood Parks, as well as one enhanced Neighborhood Park, in the Yuma East area. **Wendt** noted that future Neighborhood Parks are private investment driven.

In 2016, **Wendt** noted that Parks & Recreation worked with the Department of Community Development and the National Parks to update the Parks & Recreation Masterplan (Plan). Consideration was given to standards, trends, populations, as well as to identifying needs, growth and development. Each of the future Community Parks noted are included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) under the Project Improvement Plan (PIP).

- South Mesa Community Park
 - 25-acre parcel of City-owned land on Avenue 6E

- Close proximity to the new VA facility and new elementary school
- The North Mesa Community Park
 - Proposed site is next to the Yuma Readiness & Community Center
 - Arizona Western College (AWC) currently owns this property so an agreement would need to be developed to move forward.
- Aqua Viva Water Treatment Urban Lake Park
 - In the conceptual planning stages
 - Likely to come forward in conjunction with the Water Treatment reservoir project

Discussion

- The South Mesa Community Park was removed from the Potential Infrastructure Projects (PIP) and moved up in the CIP, per City Councils prior direction. However, there is still no funding dedicated for this project. [**Mayor Nicholls/Wendt**]
- In an attempt to lower vandalism and address drug related activity, bathrooms at the parks have been closed at 11:00 p.m. and staff cleans/opens them at 5:00 a.m. [**Shoop/Wendt**]
- Partnerships with the nearby schools and civic groups could be formed to assist in turning the City's sand lots into pocket parks. [**Shoop/Wendt**]
- Araby Park is within a planned development and will be developer driven. [**Shelton/Wendt**]

Wendt continued her presentation with the following information related to the benefits of a digital marquee sign at the PAAC:

- Informing the public of the activities at the PAAC is a key factor in attracting people to the complex.
- Although there is an entryway sign, people driving west on 8th Street cannot see the name of the complex until they are right in front of it.
- Dates/times of tournaments and activities can be displayed, inviting people to come and watch. Cancelled games can also be displayed.
- Provides a means to promote future events and activities
- Although we cannot use the sign to sell advertising space, it could generate revenue by allowing private/public partnerships to assist in the cost of the sign and then have their name associated with the signage.
- Type, size and location are critical.

Discussion:

- The sign cannot be used for advertising if placed within the PAAC grounds and off-site signage has zoning requirements. [**Knight/Linville**]
- Sponsorship of a sign would still be required to follow the zoning rules of an off-site sign. [**Morris/Linville**]
 - A change in the City's ordinance may need to be considered. [**Shelton**]
- A 7 ft. by 10 ft. digital marquee would cost approximately \$68,000. [**Mayor Nicholls/ Wendt**]

L. Current status of activities related to:

Swimming Pools

Wendt stated the City operates, manages, and maintains four swimming pools: Valley Aquatic Center, Marcus Pool, Kennedy Pool and Carver Pool. Each pool offers swimming for all ages, as well as other activities. Annual attendance is approximately 144,000 with 80% of the users being children.

Continuing, **Wendt** explained that Marcus is the only pool that is open year round. Carver, Kennedy and the Aquatic Center are closed during the winter. Kennedy is drained after the summer programming has ended in August, and Carver is drained after high school swim season, which is sometime in November.

Wendt noted the following challenges:

- Only one year-round pool
- Scheduling of pool times due to programming needs
 - City programs, high school season and youth co-sponsored teams
- Three of the pools [Carver, Marcus and Kennedy] are 40-50+ years old.
 - Repairs and improvement are costly and are happening more often with each year.

Discussion:

- Currently exploring solar heating versus gas heating and the cost options. [**Rodriguez**]
- The Kennedy refurbishing project is a larger project than staff is able to accommodate. Staff is researching costs and hoping to engage private funding; however, this is in the very early stages at this time. [**Watts/Wendt**]
- If the pool programming were to be privatized, the City would still be responsible for the maintenance. [**Shoop/Rodriguez**]
- Discussions need to take place regarding spending \$10 million on Kennedy Pool and more research of internal costs. [**Mayor Nicholls**]
- Heating considerations would be explored for the older pools first and would be added when they were upgrading, making those pools usable year round. [**Shelton/Watts/ Rodriguez**]

YCAT

Simonton stated that he has met with the Transit Director, Shelly Kreger, on bus stops. Although YCAT desires to make this a priority, the challenge are the rights-of-ways (ROW). The City is working on this and will be bringing forward more information soon.

Discussion:

- The ROW's will serve as pullouts for the buses and for shaded structures, for those waiting for the bus. [**Knight/Simonton**]
- An area on 24th Street is being considered for those that work at the medical offices. [**Watts/Simonton**]

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Mayor Nicholls** adjourned the Special Worksession/Retreat at 4:56 p.m. No Executive Session was held

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

DRAFT