

**MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL GOAL SETTING/SPECIAL WORKSESSION**  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA  
YUMA ART CENTER  
254 S. MAIN STREET, YUMA, ARIZONA  
**February 23, 2021**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Mayor Nicholls** called the City Council meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Morris, Watts (2:08 p.m.), Knight, McClendon, Shoop, and Mayor Nicholls

Councilmembers Absent: none

Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Philip A. Rodriguez  
Deputy City Administrator, Jay Simonton  
Deputy City Administrator, Jenn Reichelt  
Director of Human Resources, Monica Welch  
Assistant Director/Zoning Administrator DCD, Alyssa Linville  
Interim DCD Director, Randy Crist  
Director of Parks & Recreation, Jason Lau  
Director of Engineering, Jeffrey Kramer  
Director of Utilities, Jeremy McCall  
Chief of Police, Susan Smith  
Deputy City Attorney, Rodney Short  
Various Department Heads or their representative  
City Attorney, Richard W. Files  
City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong  
Deputy City Clerk, Janet L. Pierson

**I. WELCOME**

**Rodriguez** provided an overview of the October 2020 retreat meetings, noting that through those meetings a City Vision and five Strategic Outcomes evolved; these Strategic Outcomes were formally approved at the December 16, 2020 City Council Meeting, and include:

- Safe & Prosperous
- Active & Appealing
- Respected & Responsible
- Connected & Engaged
- Unique & Creative

**Rodriguez** stated that during the retreat, initiatives that City Council prioritized were discussed and some were included in the Strategic Outcomes. He noted that today City Council will discuss initiatives that staff has prioritized and would like City Council's consideration to be part of the Strategic Outcomes. **Rodriguez** noted it is unlikely that all the issues can be resolved today, staff is simply looking for direction of what items presented today City Council would like to be included in the strategic plan.

## II. GOAL SETTING

### City Benefit Plan

**Welch** introduced **Mark Fitch**, Segal Consulting, who serves as a consultant to YABC. **Fitch** presented the following information regarding the City's Health Insurance Benefits:

#### The Yuma Area Benefits Consortium

- The City's current health insurance benefit plan is the Yuma Area Benefits Consortium (YABC)
  - The City has been a member since July 1, 2004
- YABC participating entities are Crane School District, Arizona Western College and the City of Yuma
  - The City of Yuma is the largest employer with 831 (48%) subscribers in the plan (1,720 total)
- Each entity has two voting members on the Board
  - The City's Human Resources and Finance Directors are appointed by City Council to serve on the Board
- YABC partners with Segal Consulting firm who provides actuarial and consulting services to help the Board make decisions
- YABC contracts with AmeriBen (third party administrator) for claims management, BCBSAZ for network provider access, and Magellan for prescription drugs

#### Self-Funded Plan

- YABC is a self-funded (also known as self-insured) Trust
  - Participating entities own the Trust and the plan offerings within the Trust, fund it, and local Board members make decisions regarding the Trust
- Why self-funding?
  - Greater flexibility, control and choice regarding benefit design, vendor selection, claim determinations, utilization reporting, monitoring and evaluation
  - Reduced costs related to non-claim related expenses, including premium taxes, insurance company risk charges, and administrative fees
  - Claim Reserves are held by the Trust and fund claims as they occur, allowing the Trust to earn investment income on monies until dispersed for payment
  - During those years in which claim activity is lower than expected, the Trust keeps all the savings – the insurance company keeps this savings for fully insured groups

#### Plan Data

- YABC allows for year-over-year cost control (the ability to make local decisions that "bend" the impact of healthcare trends) and the flexibility to use reserves
  - There was a recommended 5% rate increase for FY 2022; however, after discussions it is now down to a 2% increase
  - YABC's 12-year average for rate increases is 5.7%; the national average is 6.8%
- The City of Yuma represented approximately 53% of the claim expenses of the Trust (Medical, Prescription Drug, Dental, net of stop-loss insurance reimbursements) during the most recent 6 fiscal years ending June 30, 2020
- During the three most recent fiscal years, the loss ratio (net claims and expenses divided by contributions) of YABC was 100.1%, and the City of Yuma's loss ratio was 100.5%

Welch presented the following plan information:

YABC Plan Options

- YABC offers three health insurance plans
- Plans include medical, dental and vision coverage

Plan	Type	Cost	Out of Pocket Cost	# of Employees
Plan A	PPO Plan	High	Less out of pocket cost	65
Plan B	PPO Plan	Mid	Slightly more out of pocket cost	249
HDHP	High Deductible Plan	Low	Must meet deductible before plan pays	517

Plan Costs FY 2021

- City pays the same monthly premium on each plan
- Cost share between City and employee
- On the HDHP the City pays \$145/month into a Health Saving Account (\$1740 annually)

	Total Monthly Premium	City's Monthly Premium	Employee's Monthly Premium
<b>Plan A</b>			
Employee only	\$894.00	\$722.00	\$172.00
Employee & Spouse	\$1,771.00	\$933.00	\$838.00
Employee & Child(ren)	\$1,671.00	\$956.00	\$715.00
Employee & Family	\$2,193.00	\$1,038.00	\$1,155.00
<b>Plan B</b>			
Employee only	\$745.00	\$722.00	\$23.00
Employee & Spouse	\$1,476.00	\$933.00	\$543.00
Employee & Child(ren)	\$1,391.00	\$956.00	\$435.00
Employee & Family	\$1,826.00	\$1,038.00	\$788.00
<b>HDHP</b>			
Employee only	\$577.00	\$577.00	\$0.00
Employee & Spouse	\$1,164.00	\$788.00	\$376.00
Employee & Child(ren)	\$1,098.00	\$811.00	\$287.00
Employee & Family	\$1,448.00	\$893.00	\$555.00

How the Plan Compares

- Benefits offered are competitive
  - The City offers similar coverage for relatively similar rates
- Plan comparison are medical coverage only at the other entities
  - most plans require a buy-up for dental and vision

- City plan includes a combined package of medical, dental and vision
- City's dependent coverage subsidy is less than other entities
  - City subsidizes between 47% - 71%
    - 71% subsidy includes the City's monthly contribution towards the HSA
  - 2020 League of Arizona Cities and Towns survey indicates that many employers are offsetting the cost of insurance between 70-100%

<b>Plan A – Employee and Family</b>				
	City of Yuma	Yuma County	Chandler	Goodyear
<b>Total Premium (monthly)</b>	\$2193	\$1976	\$1860	\$2263
<b>Employer Contribution (monthly)</b>	\$1038	\$1413	\$1488	\$1652
<b>Employee Contribution (monthly)</b>	\$1155	\$563.82	\$744.24	\$611.11
<b>Percentage of subsidy</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>73%</b>

<b>Plan B – Employee and Family</b>				
	City of Yuma	Yuma County	Chandler	Goodyear
<b>Total Premium (monthly)</b>	\$1826	\$1757	\$1563	\$2019
<b>Employer Contribution (monthly)</b>	\$1038	\$1413	\$1250	\$1474
<b>Employee Contribution (monthly)</b>	\$788	\$689.68	\$625.48	\$545.36
<b>Percentage of subsidy</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>73%</b>

<b>High Deductible Plan – Employee and Family</b>				
	City of Yuma	Yuma County	Chandler	Goodyear
<b>Total Premium (monthly)</b>	\$1,448	\$1,689	\$1,250	\$1927
<b>Employer Contribution (monthly)</b>	\$1038*	\$1,413	\$1,250	\$1407
<b>Employee Contribution (monthly)</b>	\$555	\$276.46	\$0	\$520.56
<b>Percentage of subsidy</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>73%</b>

- Most employees elect the HDHP due to the lower cost

- \$1500 annual deductible / \$3000 for family
- HSA annual contribution by the City is \$1740 (\$145.00 per month)

### Moving Forward

The health insurance topic is back up for discussion as the City continues to hear complaints from employees on the cost of family or dependent coverage

- To remain a Respected and Responsible organization the City must have a competitive benefits plan
  - Dependent subsidy impacts employee recruitment and retention
  - Benefits are one of the top reasons employees consider other employment as identified in exit interviews
- Options
  - Identify ways to increase the City's dependent subsidy
    - Every 1% increase equates to approximately \$24,585 annually
  - Internal plan redesign
  - Look at options outside of the YABC
    - One year notice is required to leave the YABC plan

### Discussion

- Linking a priority to Respected and Responsible is needed to increase leverage and expand recruitment and retention efforts. Knowing the strategic priority is helpful during budget planning. [**Rodriguez**]
- There must be a balance between fiscal responsibility and getting good employees and healthcare coverage. It may be helpful to look at all options. [**Mayor Nicholls**]
- The target reserve is 6 months and the reserves allow members of the trust the ability to buy down. [**Knight/Fitch**]
- The City can expect to pay 7-10% more if it chooses to move away from YABC. Education and the willingness to save money makes employees better consumers of healthcare. [**Watts/Fitch**]
- The loss ratio fluctuates up and down. [**Shoop/Fitch**]
- The City should maintain the plan through YABC, as they seem to provide the best coverage and price. [**Shelton**]
- A 1% subsidy is not effective. The City pays a significant amount of money into and encourages the High Deductible plan, but not everyone is eligible due to restrictions such as other insurance. [**McClendon/Welch**]
- Look at other options to get closer to what the other entities have without being too competitive with the private sector. [**Morris**]
- It is best not to self-insure with less than 1000 employees. As a note, 30 employees retired last year. [**Mayor Nicholls /Welch/Fitch**]
- It is unknown whether the companies used for comparison are also self-insured. [**Knight/Welch**]
- Including the City Benefits Plan in the Strategic Plan is worth the discussion, as long as we are on track fiscally. [**Rodriguez/Mayor Nicholls**]
- The consortium currently has three entities and those entities must be public entities. A review is performed of an entities claim history prior to entry into the consortium. Allowing an entity with high claims into the consortium would be detrimental to the plan. [**Watts/Welch/Fitch**]

**General Plan Update**

**Linville** presented the following information regarding the 2022 General Plan Update:

**Background**

- Last ratification took place in 2012. It was a minor amendment with text changes and two required elements from the state.
- General Plan goes before the voters every 10 years; however, it can be amended in between
- Two amendments since 2012
  - Land Use Map Amendments
  - Facility Plan Updates
    - 2014 Transportation Master Plan
    - 2016 Park and Rec Plan
    - 2018 Bikeways Plan
- Current issues to address
  - Incorporate visions and goals identified within the recently adopted City Council Strategic Plan
  - Expand Redevelopment Area sites
    - Address inconsistencies between the General Plan and existing zoning designations
  - Incorporate IGA with City of San Luis
    - Land use designation of public-quasi-public south of county 24<sup>th</sup> and north of border
  - Land Use Map technical corrections
    - Only land use map changes require a major amendment

**Scope of Update Options**

- Option 1 - Technical Update
  - Minor Amendment Process
  - Changes to text to reflect vision/strategy
- Option 2 - Technical Update
  - Major Amendment Process
  - Changes to text to reflect vision/strategy
  - Changes to Land Use Map
- Option 3 - Comprehensive Update
  - Major Amendment
  - Changes to text to reflect vision/strategy
  - Changes to Land Use Map
  - Significant Public Outreach effort with community/stakeholder committee
  - Significant online presence
  - Outreach at community events
  - Charrettes
  - Outside Consultant
    - This option requires a consultant and the Request for Proposal [RFP] process.
    - The consultant would review the General Plan page-by-page and reach out to various stakeholders throughout the community

- Extensive public outreach is needed, including booths at community events, open houses, and other public engagement opportunities which are made more difficult due to the current COVID pandemic
- A comprehensive update could be conducted following the ratification of the 2022 General Plan and would not require going back to the voters.

**Linville** exclaimed that doing nothing is not an option. Once the General Plan expires in November 2022 no zoning actions can occur because the City cannot prove conformity to the General Plan.

### Election Options

- Special Election
  - March 8, 2022 – Adopt by 10/6/2021
  - May 19, 2022 – Adopt by 12/15/2021
    - Additional cost of \$70,000-\$120,000
    - May be less political
    - Plan must be approved by City Council 120 days before the election
      - Attorney General 30 days to review document following City Council approval, primarily military related activity [airport overlay] any changes need to go back to City Council for approval
- General Election
  - August 29, 2022 – Adopt by 3/16/2022
  - November 1, 2022 – Adopt by 6/1/2022

If the voters were to vote down the amendment, the City could operate under the existing 2012 General Plan until such a time the voters approve the updated documents.

### Citizen Review

- Recommendation: Planning and Zoning Commission
  - Appointed by City Council
  - Already meet regularly
  - Little to no additional training needed
  - Tasked with development review and familiar with Land Use
  - Would hold focused listening sessions with stakeholders at the end of Planning and Zoning (P & Z) meetings
    - Invite Agriculture Community, Development Community, Chamber, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation and representatives from other community organizations

### Public Outreach

- Open Houses
  - May not be an option until late 2021, early 2022
- Newsletters
  - 3 newsletters to be distributed at the beginning, middle and before the end of the process
- Online Surveys
- Website
- Speaker Tours to community groups
- Joint P & Z /City Council Work Sessions
  - Four were held in 2002 and two were conducted in 2012

- Voter pamphlet and summary documents to be provided in both Spanish and English

### Recommended Methodology

- Technical Update – Option 2
  - Major Amendment 2021 calendar
  - Changes to text to reflect the City’s Vision/Strategy
  - Includes Land Use Map amendments
- Election – August 29, 2022
- Planning Commission as Citizen Review
  - With Stakeholder meetings
- Public Outreach
  - Newsletters – three editions
  - Spanish language summary documents

**Linville** noted that staff’s recommendation is Option #2 and would like to proceed with the Primary, August 29, 2022 election with outreach as described above.

### Discussion

- The IGA with San Luis could be included in Option #1 but would be a reference and not a map amendment. [**Mayor Nicholls/Linville**]
- Making the process a joint effort with the County will be a consideration, as the City has done in the past. [**Mayor Nicholls/Linville**]
- A special election would alleviate this item being placed at the bottom of the ballot and potentially getting lost. [**Shoop**]
- Any updates to a map would be a major amendment. [**Shelton/Linville**]
- Consolidated elections is an issue the City knew they were going to have to face. Voters will find issues on the ballot that relate to them and that they are interested enough in to vote on. Full consideration should be given to the consolidated election schedule. Special elections are expensive, as the City may be the only one on the ballot. [**Knight**]
- If the voters vote down the General Plan, the City would operate under the existing General Plan. If nothing comes forward, it expires and the City is in trouble. [**Morris/Linville**]
- Currently there is not a need for a comprehensive update. [**Watts/Linville**]
- Voters will sort through the ballot and do the right thing. [**Shelton**]
- Safe and Prosperous is the agreed upon Strategic Outcome for the General Plan update [**Rodriguez, Mayor Nicholls, Knight**]
- Future annexations will affect the General Plan and require a major change. [**Knight**]

### Community Development Code Updates

**Crist** reported on the Community Development Code updates to the 2020 National Electric Code (NEC), 2018 International Plumbing Code (IPC), 2018 International Mechanical Code (IMC), 2018 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) as follows:

Modern codes represent the strategic outcome of Safe and Prosperous. In December 2018 the Building Code update was adopted. Due to COVID the plan to move forward with the Electrical and Mechanical codes was stalled.



### Reasons to Update

- Normal code cycle
  - Codes come out every three years
  - Staff recommends updating every six years to align with the building codes
- Provide for the most modern materials and equipment available for installation and use
  - It is speculation that the new codes are more restrictive; this is not always the case
- Life safety improvements by professional code committees
  - Safety is the biggest reason
- Most favorable Insurance Services Office [ISO] rating
  - The ISO rating is used by the insurance underwriters to base their policy amounts to their customers
  - The City of Yuma has a “2” rating with “1” being the best and “10” being the worst
  - There are only five or six cities that hold a “2” rating
- Education and certification for staff are offered only for the most current codes
  - All staff, with the exception of one, are certified
- Tailor codes to local needs
  - Codes can be tailored to local conditions when reviewed through the committees

### Recommended Codes

- NEC: Used to manage new and existing electrical systems in commercial and industrial buildings
  - Not residential
- IPC: Used to manage new and existing plumbing systems in commercial buildings
  - Advanced materials
- IMC: Used to manage new and existing mechanical systems in commercial buildings
  - AC Systems, Chiller Systems
- IFGC: Used to manage natural gas and propane in commercial buildings
  - Was in the plumbing code but it got too large
  - Broke plumbing out – piping for propane and natural gas

### The Review Process

- The Building Advisory Board, Community Development, Building Safety and Fire Prevention staff review each chapter of the code
  - The Building Advisory Board would be the reviewer and oversees and reviews commercial applications
  - Represented by many members of the community with specialty positions
  - Reviewed page-by-page and takes about two meeting per document to get through
  - About a four-month process before a recommendation comes before council
- Construction and design community is invited to attend
  - Emails for public participation has been well received
- Outreach to Southwest Contractor Association and local media outlets to get the word out
  - Local media, TV(Channel 73), radio and newspaper

### Discussion

- The City currently has a local policy for self-inspections, but they could be updated by adding more self-inspections that make sense for the City. [Mayor Nicholls/Crist]
- Self-inspections are allowed in three disciplines: drywall, lap and roof nail. Must be a licensed contractor, pass test, must submit paperwork and spot checks will be performed by City Inspectors. The Certificate of Occupancy will not be allowed without the proper paperwork. [Knight/Crist]
- There are no self-inspections on life-saving inspections. [Crist]
- Virtual inspections for mechanical and solar are currently taking place with the inspectors using an iPad. [Crist]
- The Building Advisory Board is currently down one member, a mechanical contractor designee, of a 9-member board. [Shelton/Crist]
- The Property Maintenance Code limits the residential occupancy number, but was amended and does not apply to family members. The amendment does not apply to apartments. [Shoop/Crist]
- The County as well as San Luis and Somerton are always invited to the review of these codes. [Morris/Crist]
- Safe and Prosperous is the agreed upon definition the code updates fall under. [Mayor Nicholls]

*BREAK: 3:29-3:42 p.m.*

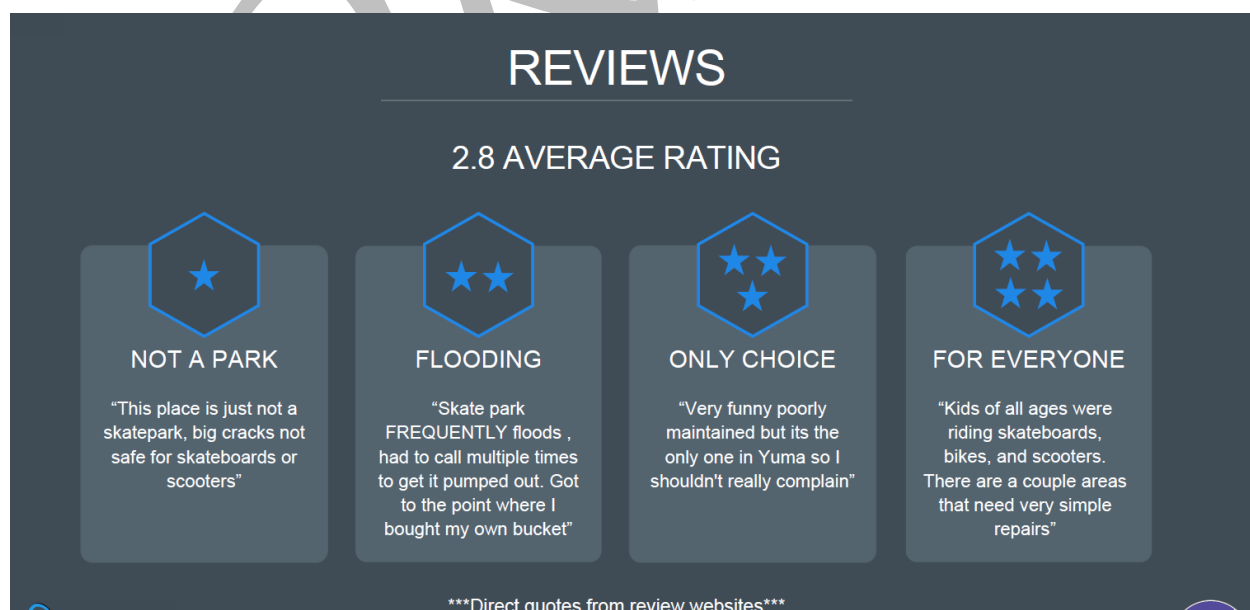
Nau reported on three strategic items for Parks and Recreation as follows:

- **Revitalize the Kennedy Skate Park**
- **Build Park Facility on the East Mesa**
- **Maintenance and Operations of City Parks**

### Revitalize the Kennedy Skate Park

#### Reviews

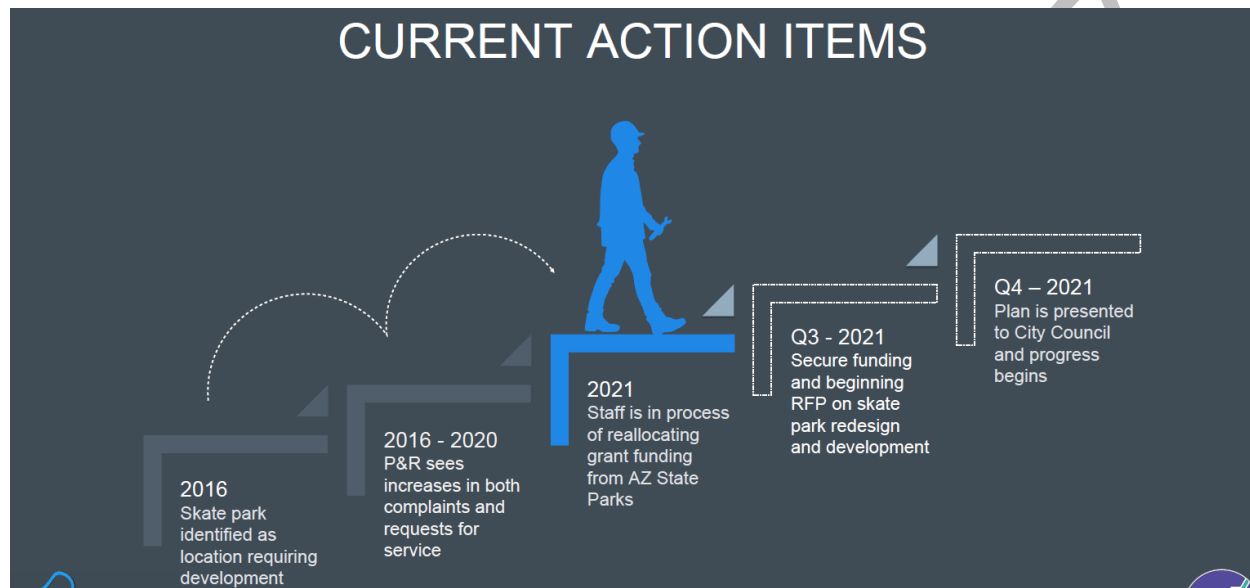
Review-based website for Kennedy Skate Park received 2.8 stars out of 5 and identified maintenance and issues as follows:



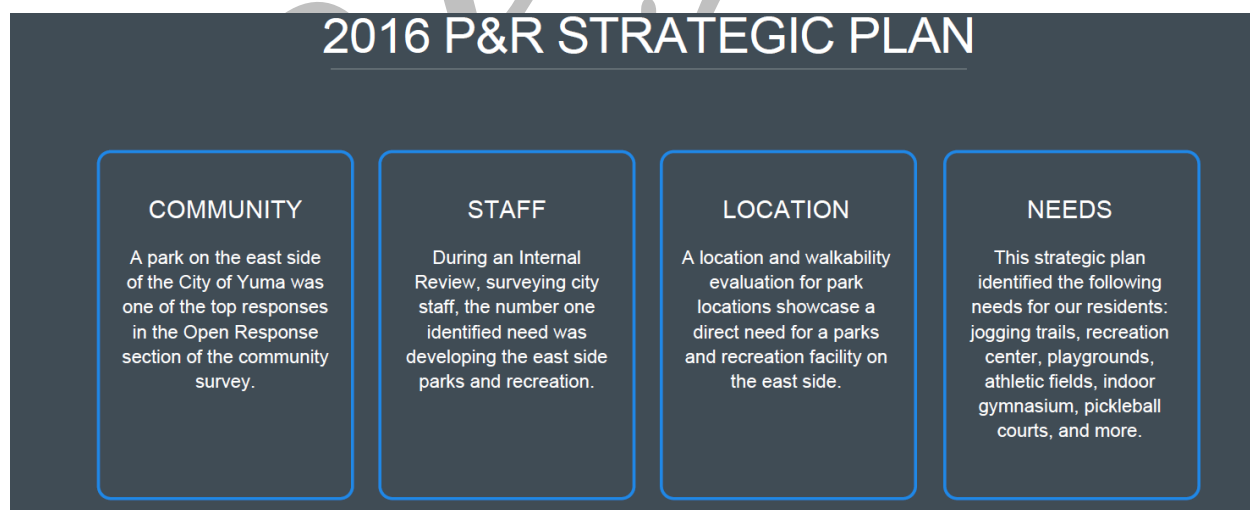
Current Action Items

How much emphasis and how much funding should go toward the skate park:

- The 2016 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan identified a skate park.
- 2021 - Parks & Recreation is trying to reallocate some grant funding into the Kennedy Skate Park
- A design firm can help to imagine what the existing park can become or provide a new design.

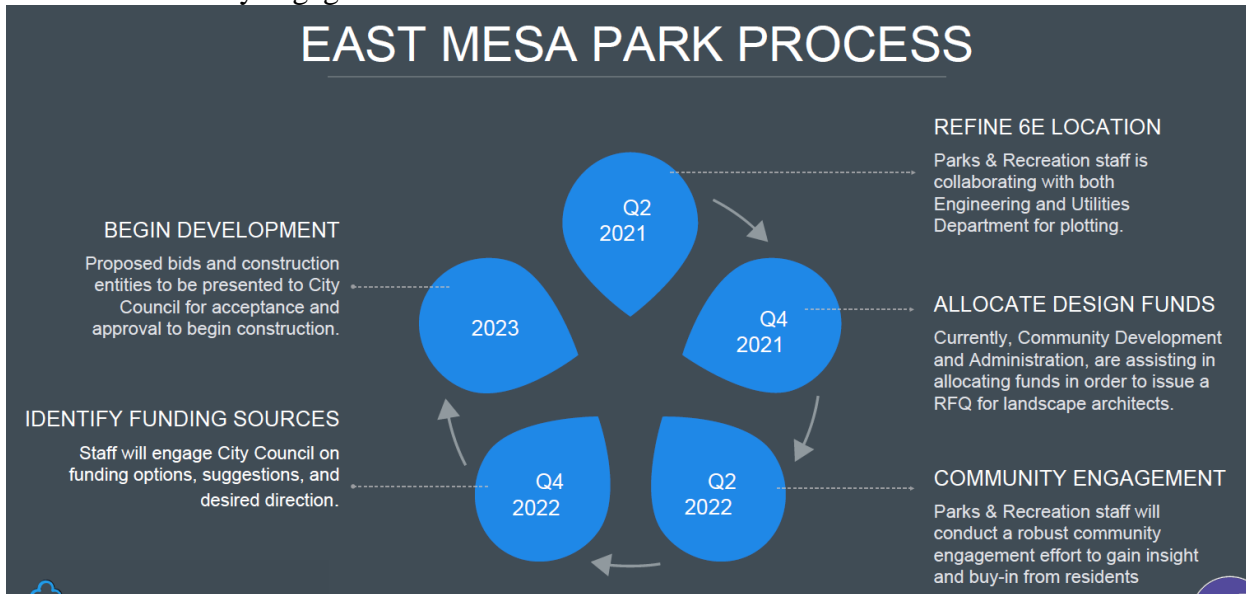
Build Park Facility on the East Mesa

- The 2016 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan identified a need for a park on the East Mesa
  - There has been some push from the citizens to get the park going



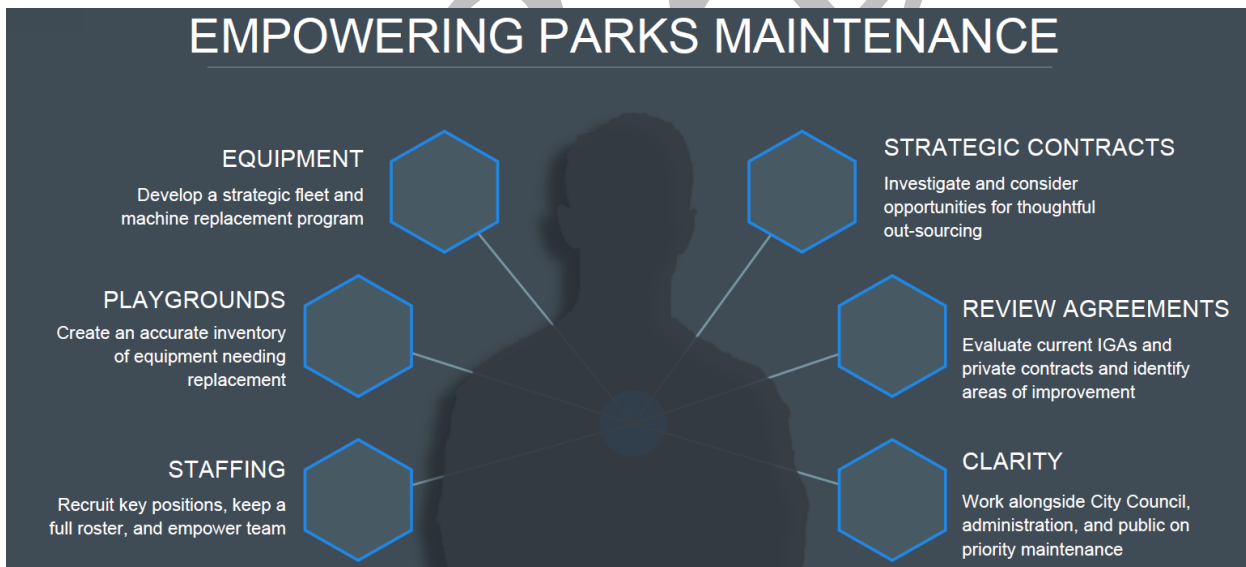
- The location is being refined; it is generally located near 6E and parallel to the Desert Dunes water facility.
- Last cost estimate was \$16 million

- Community engagement



#### Maintenance and Operations of City Parks

- There is currently a deficiency in equipment
- There is a need to value the current playground infrastructure
- Need to review what other departments have done in contracting out landscape needs
- Review agreements to determine what is missing in the contracts.
- Need to establish clarity/direction from City Council



#### Discussion

- Parks maintenance has a plan in place for ongoing inspection of park infrastructure. [Mayor Nicholls/Nau]
- City Council has been a strong supporter of outsourcing where it makes sense to do so. [Mayor Nicholls]

- Engagement of the Veteran's home will be included in the East Mesa park plan. [Mayor Nicholls/Nau]
- The East Mesa Park may provide another opportunity to address an outdoor performing arts facility. [Shoop/Nau]
- The hope is to revitalize the Kennedy Skate Park with grant funding. [McClendon/Nau]
- The \$16 million price tag for the East Mesa Park may have been a previous CIP estimate. The 6E Park cost is closer to \$6.5 million depending on the priorities for the park. A Master Plan for the entire park can be determined and then built out in phases. [Simonton/McClendon]
- Updating and upgrading the current Kennedy Skate Park, including a plaque recognizing the teenage interest group that made the Kennedy Skate Park a reality is suggested. [Shelton]
- Private entities in the community have expressed an interest regarding matching funds for the Kennedy Skate Park. [Morris]
- Building the Avenue 6E Park in phases is a good idea. [Watts]
- The biggest issue with citizen volunteers working with Parks and Recreation is COVID. [Shoop/Rodriguez]
- If you are at a City park and you see trash pick it up. [Mayor Nicholls]

### **Intelligent Transportation System Implementation**

**Kramer** presented the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) implementation, noting that ITS falls under the Strategic Outcome of Safe and Prosperous.

#### **Background**

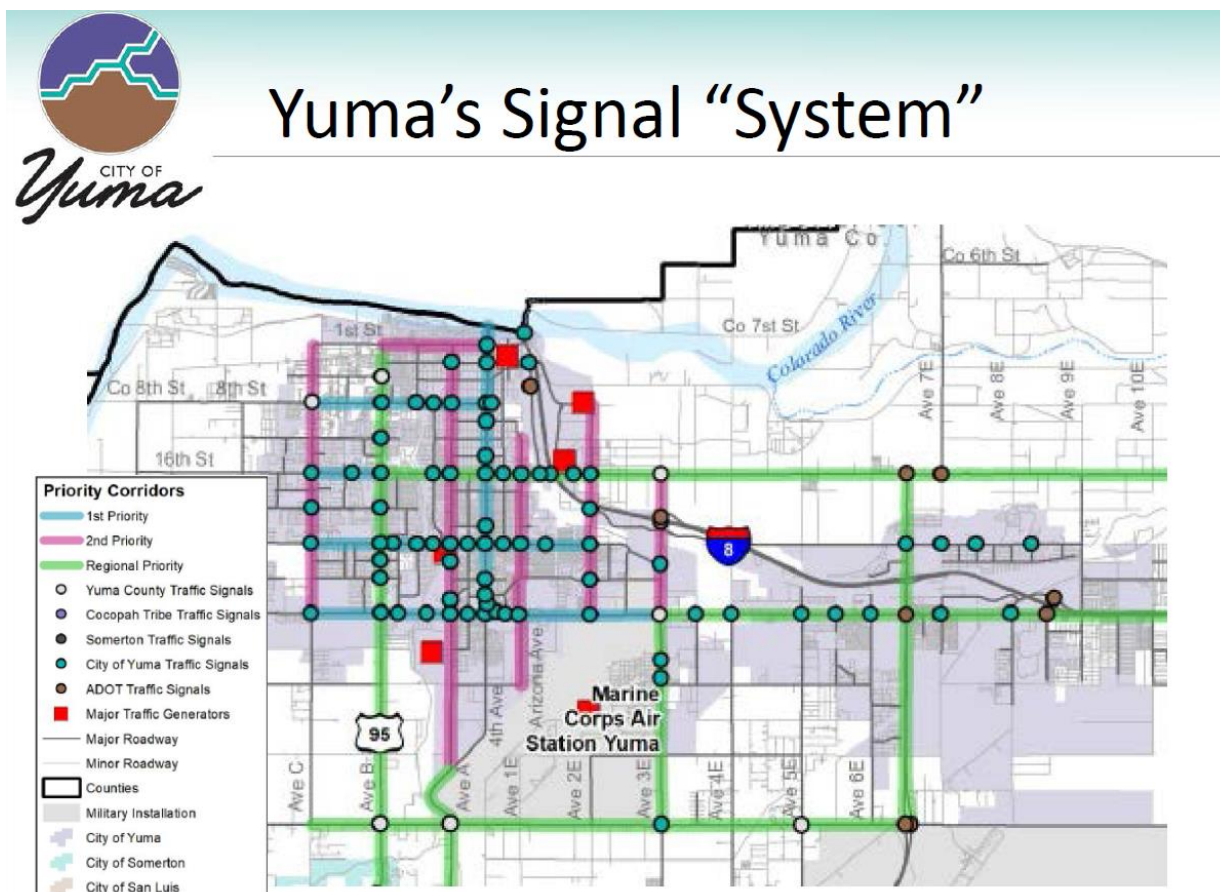
- Discussed at the 2019 Council Retreat
  - Substandard traffic management capabilities
  - Use of technology in-lieu of increasing capacity
  - Implementing traffic control enhancements
  - Planning for a traffic management system

#### **What is ITS**

- An Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) is simply the use of technology to manage a transportation system (road network) to achieve maximum efficiency, and provide operating data to allow City staff and motorists to make better decisions about travel, safety and comfort.

#### **Yuma's Signal "System"**

- 77 signals
- No two connected



### What Will ITS Do For Citizens

- Connect all traffic signals to a central control
  - Synchronized corridor travel aids the motorists to travel through an area predictably.
    - Reduces: traffic delays and driver frustration; effects of pollution from idling vehicles; and negative impacts on the economy due to delay
  - More traffic can move efficiently from A to B
  - Ability to provide traveler information
    - Information about accidents, closures, congested areas
  - Can reduce the need for or extent of some roadway/intersection widening projects



Example Corridor

- Such as on the Big Curve (32<sup>nd</sup> Street) where there are three signals with little distance between.

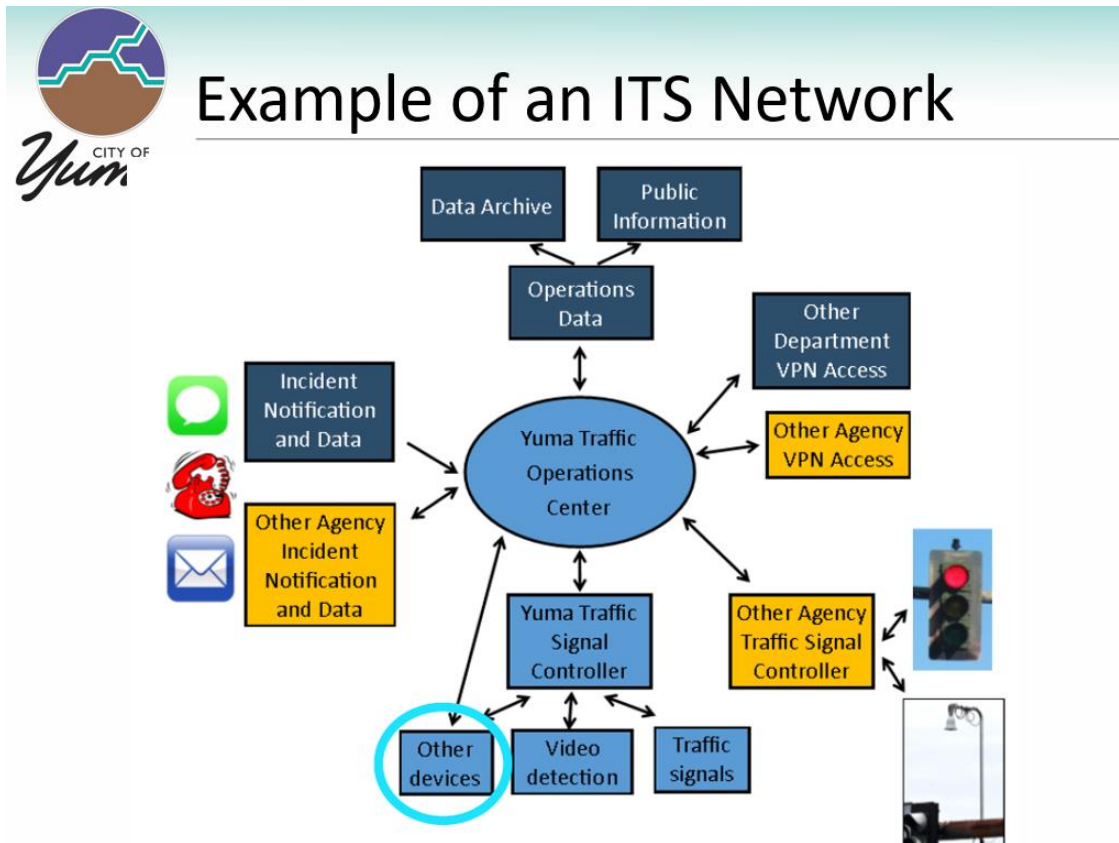
What Will ITS Do For Staff

- Connect all traffic signals to a central control
  - Change timing and phasing remotely
  - View operations through detection cameras to respond to changed conditions
  - Quickly react to special events, time of day impacts, etc.
  - Traffic counters, off-intersection detection, etc.
  - Ability to see intersection operations, allowing for better decisions about operational improvements

Public Safety Opportunities

- Share visual of intersections with Dispatch
  - See the scene before FD/PD responders arrive
  - FD/PD responders can be better prepared for what they are responding to
  - Other enhancements such as Weigh-in-Motion, Hazmat Detection, etc.

Example of an ITS Network



Example Traffic Operations Center (TOC)

- The City envisions a small workstation with limited workers and operators





Where Are We Now?

- ITS background planning is complete
- Concept of Operations and Infrastructure Deployment Plans are underway
  - Currently over halfway complete
- Ongoing coordination with regional partners
  - ADOT, Yuma County, Somerton, Cocopah, San Luis

Discussion

- Communication would be through fiber optic underground with upgraded equipment to take advantage of software capabilities and the IT standard conduit configuration.  
[**Morris/Kramer/Mayor Nicholls**]
- Lights on 16<sup>th</sup> Street east of Avenue 3E are controlled by ADOT [**Shelton/Kramer**]
- The flashing yellow left-turn arrow pilot installation at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street accomplished what was expected. [**Shoop/Kramer**]
  - Through the 2024 Highway Safety Improvement Program grant 3 more will be installed.  
[**Shoop/Kramer**]
- Updating existing cabinets for left turn capability is at least a 10-year project that Public Works is currently working on. The cost is approximately \$30,000 to update each cabinet and there are approximately 50 left to go. [**Knight/Kramer**]
- Options are being evaluated for partnering with the outlying communities [**Knight/Kramer**]

Utilities Code Updates

**McCall** presented the following information related to Utility Code Updates, specifically pertaining to water, wastewater and backflow:

- City is currently working from 1987 regulations with some light modifications made in 2006
  - Need to bring regulations up to today's standards
  - Article IV Pretreatment was updated a few years ago
- Several housekeeping updates needed due to age of current regulations
  - Sector changes and definitions
- Stakeholder
  - Development
  - Commercial Water
  - Water & Sewer Commission
- Provisions and Elements
  - Meter size standards
  - Service lines and extensions
  - Deposits and fees
  - Direct connect charge
  - Public/Private systems
    - Specifically, what is City and what is Private

**McCall** estimated that it would take a 10- month timeframe to complete the updates. He noted the Code Updates align with the Respected and Responsible Strategic Outcome.

### Discussion

- Codification of infrastructure to undeveloped properties could be included in these updates so the investment or cutting of roads will not have to be made later when new businesses come in. [Mayor Nicholls/McCall]

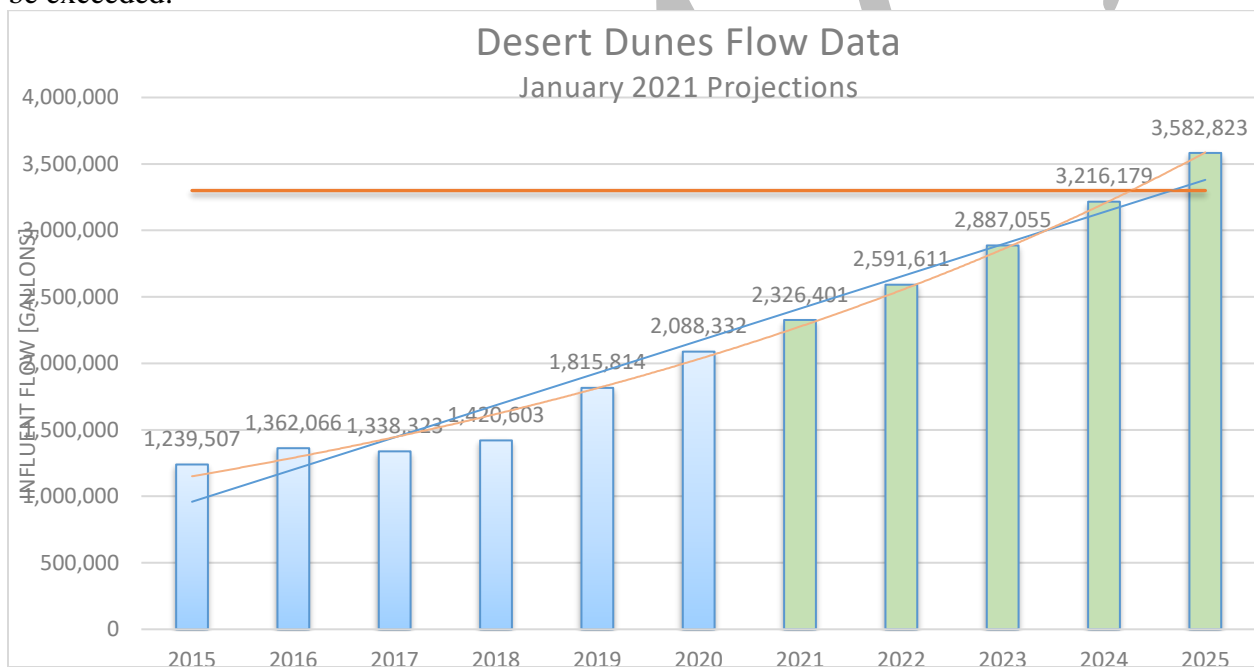
### Expansion of Desert Dunes Water Reclamation Facility

**McCall** informed City Council the Desert Dunes Water Reclamation Facility, located at 6E and 40<sup>th</sup> Street, was commissioned September 2005 as a 3.3 million gallon a day [MGD] facility. It sits on a 45-acre site and has 11 full-time staff members. The facility has five lift stations and its current service area is 19,600 acres. It was designed for expansion from 3 to 6 to 12 MGD. The current influent flows are 2.08 MGD (2020) resulting in the need to expand. The proposed expansion build-out is estimated at 9.34 MGD.

**McCall** pointed out the historic growth:

- 10 year 7.1% [2010-2020]
- 3 year 11.4% [2018-2020]

He presented the following flow projections, noting the red line equates a fixed capacity that should not be exceeded:



**McCall** stated that if the City maintains the noted 3-year growth, capacity will likely be reached in 2025. Based on the standard 10-year growth, capacity will likely be reached in 2027. If the facility is at capacity it means connections will be limited.

**McCall** stated that ADEQ approved the 6.6 MGD discharge permit in 2012. However, the build-out never took place. **McCall** concluded the presentation with the following projections and proposed response schedule:

- Projections
  - Exceedance of Capacity

- 7% - 2027
- 11% - 2025
- Limited Capacity will limit Development
- Proposed Response Schedule
  - Update Existing Plans for Bid First Quarter 2022
  - Anticipate a 24-month Construction Phase
  - Target a 2025 Completion Date

**McCall** concluded stating the expansion of Desert Dunes fits into the Respected and Responsible Strategic Outcome.

#### Discussion

- Since the current rates are at an all-time low, it would be beneficial to the City to go out for a bond now and tighten up the timeframe to expedite the expansion. [**Mayor Nicholls/ McCall**]
- The City has 4 years left to pay off the current bond. However, staff can explore the benefits to an early payoff or rolling the balance into a new bond. [**Rodriguez**]
- One more expansion would be possible after we proceed with the proposed expansion. However, future expansion may depend on utilizing additional City land [**Knight/ McCall**]
  - Finding a professional customer who can take effluent water to reuse would be another option [**McCall**]

#### Police Academy

**Smith** provided a history of Yuma Police Department's (YPD) programming of cadets into the Academy and what is taking place today. She reminded City Council of the following:

- 2017 – Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training (AzPOST) informed state agencies of impending academy funding cuts
- 2018 - AzPOST funding cuts went into effect
- Academies were then compelled to redirect costs back to individual agencies
- October, 2018 – Quick partnership between Yuma Police Department, Arizona Western College [AWC], and Yuma County Sheriff's Office [YCSO] established
- Ray Kroc Complex identified as possible location
- Remodel begins / Improvements made

**Smith** explained that the 5<sup>th</sup> full-time academy class began October 2020 and the program has expanded to numerous out-of-County agencies. Currently two classes are being held per year with a class capacity of 28 cadets. Growth of the academy is driving the need to expand the program. **Smith** explained that the other side of the current academy building is available. After speaking to the partners/stakeholders, they all agreed that a permanent, fully-functioning academy is needed and the expansion will fit their current needs. Smith noted that expansion of the Police Academy fits into the Respected and Responsible Strategic Outcome.

#### Discussion

- The Facility, even with all the remodeling, can still be utilized for other events/functions. [**Mayor Nicholls/Smith**]
- Stakeholders are discussing using the parameters in the previous agreement for the remodeling of the

other side. [Knight/Smith]

- The remodel of the second side of the current building will allow for two additional classes annually, for a total of four classes each year. [Watts/Smith]
- It is not a money-making venture as much as it provides a huge cost saving benefit for the City to get their cadets trained locally. [Knight/Smith]

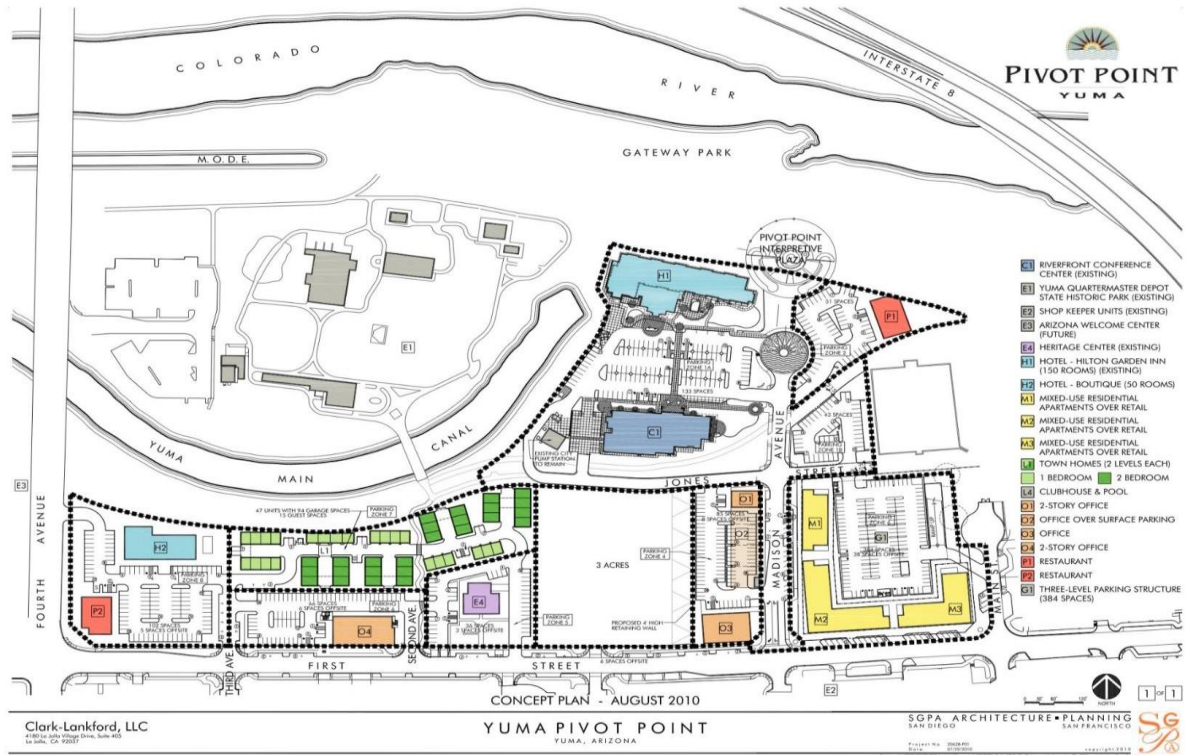
### **Develop a Plan and Support for Riverfront Development**

**Rodriguez** stated during the October retreat, Mayor and Council noted the Riverfront as a priority in the Active and Appealing Strategic Outcomes. However, clarification of what Council envisioned for the Riverfront was not discussed and now is the time to give some clear direction so staff can move forward toward that goal. **Rodriguez** provided four maps of visions presented in previous years and asked City Council 1) how do you best describe Riverfront development and 2) what does success look like at the conclusion of the implementation of the Riverfront initiative.

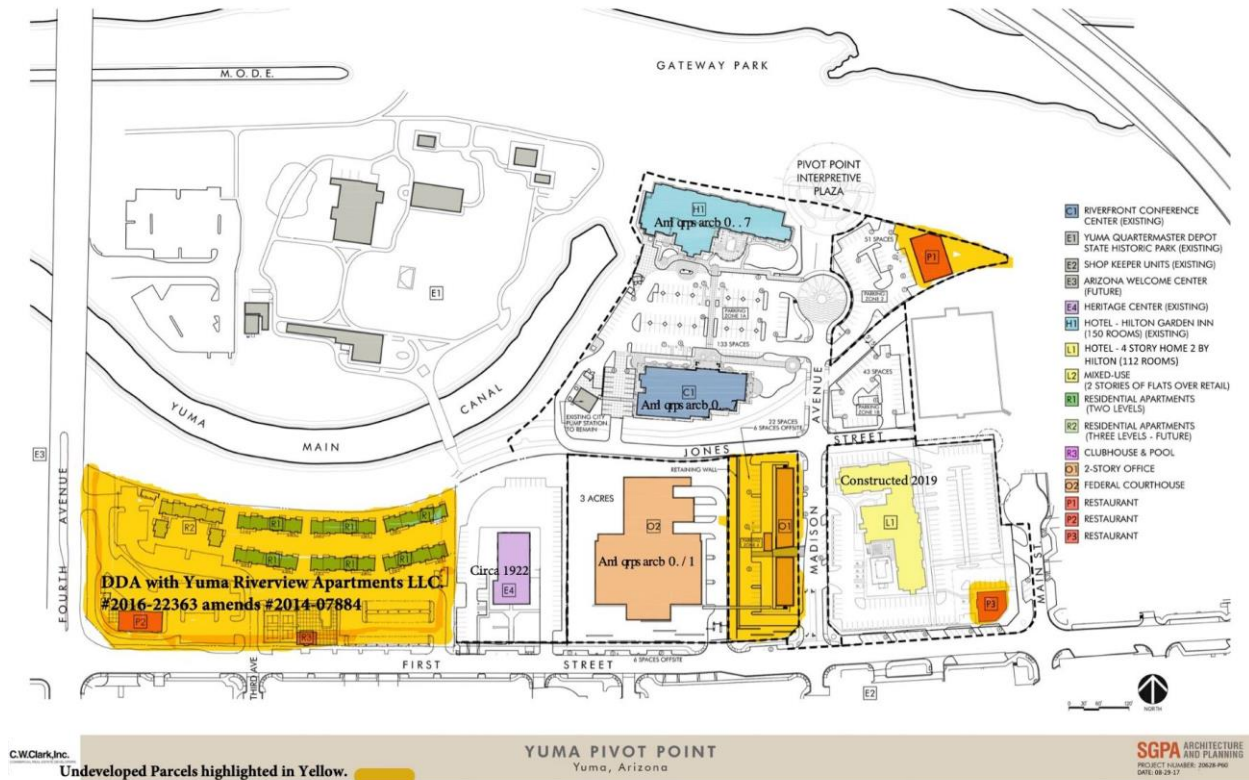
#### 2004 Riverfront District Master Plan



2011 Riverfront Master Plan



2017 Riverfront Master Plan Updated





## 2020 Vision



A summary of those definitions and successes were: tourism destination, community participation, self-funding, fun, opportunity, similar to San Antonio's Riverwalk, extension of the entertainment district, increased property value and investment were provided.

## Discussion

- Time to turn it over to the private sector [**Mayor Nicholls/Knight**]
- There is a perception that the City should take the lead and possibly be more assertive in the planning [**Shoop**]
- Previous development plans with CW Clark have been modified a half dozen times [**Mayor Nicholls**]
- The Attorney's Office has been untangling the legal issues [**Knight**]
- Investors should be responsible for putting the plan to fruition [**Morris**]
- The Heritage Area Board is having discussions related to the MegaPark concept linked with the Riverfront considerations [**Shelton/Mayor Nicholls**]
- The City property can be marketed through an RFP process and with the right zoning and General

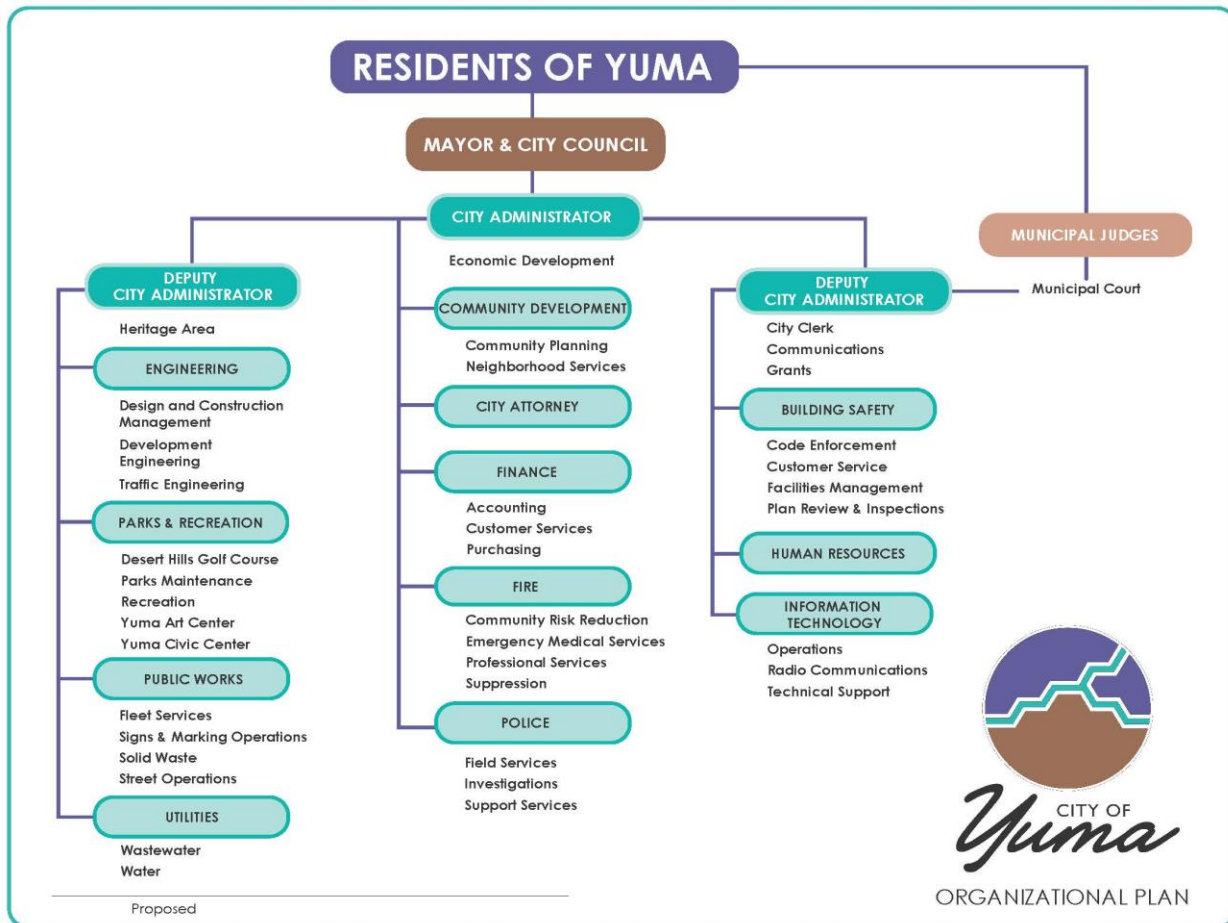
Plan in place the riverfront initiative can get started. Staff will bring an action plan forward.  
[Rodriguez]

### **Organizational Plan Recommendation for FY 2022**

**Rodriguez** reviewed Section 31-01 of the Yuma City Code as it relates to the organizational structure, noting that it has been amended 5 times since its inception in 1998. **Rodriguez** noted there has been a vacancy for the Department of Community Development (DCD) Department Director since January 2020 and there was a reclassification of the DCD Assistant Director position in fiscal year 2021. He suggested splitting the planning and building services divisions that are currently under the umbrella of the DCD, and proposed that Building Safety become its own department. This new department would oversee Code Enforcement, Customer Service, Facilities Management, Plan Review and Inspections. Furthermore, **Rodriguez** suggests:

- Changing Information Technology Services (ITS) to Information Technology (IT)
- Retitling Administration to City Administration; for clarity, efficiencies and transparency

**Rodriguez** informed City Council that the organizational chart has been amended to delineate the department/division charges under the City Administrator and two Deputies.



### **Discussion**

- Building Safety will remain on the same floor and will still engage with Community Development as

they have in the past – the change will be the management which should not fracture the partnership between the two [**Mayor Nicholls/ Rodriguez**]

- Suggested renaming DCD to Planning and Zoning or Planning Development [**Morris/ Mayor Nicholls**]

### **2021 State and Federal Legislative Updates**

**Short** presented the 2021 State and Federal Legislative Updates as follows:

#### Earmarks

- Earmarks are back
- “Member-Directed Spending”
- Discretionary spending, through House Appropriations
- Targeted at specific states, locality, or congressional districts
- Earmarks had moratorium since the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress (2015-2017)

#### INFRA/DOT

- FAST Act authorized \$4.5 billion from 2016-2020
- Continues for FY 2021, \$1 billion awarded by USDOT on competitive basis
- Awards remaining INFRA funds from FY 2020 (approx.\$889 million)
- “National or Regional Significance” that meet statutory requirements

#### Federal Grants

- New year results in grant announcements
- Higher after election year
- Programs are targeted with tight criteria
- More generalized after Cabinet members and Agency heads confirmed by Senate
- Until then, agenda is more philosophical and political policy based

#### Community and Economic Development

- Yuma Multiversity Development
- Increase funding for CDBG, HOME, Rental Assistance Programs, and Homeless Assistance Grants
- Fund programs that remove blight and revitalize underserved neighborhoods

#### Public Infrastructure

- Intelligent Transportation System Implementation
- Yuma Multimodal Transportation Center
- 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Transportation Corridor Improvements
- Deployment of High-Speed Fiber Network to Bridge Digital Divide
- Yuma Spaceport Project Land Acquisition

#### Public Safety

- Crime Lab and Tactical Training Facility Support federal funding to help local law enforcement agencies with community collaboration programs and community policing
- Support competitive grant applications from the Yuma Police Department



- Assistance to Fire Fighters Grants
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

#### Quality of Life

- Support funding and legislation that improves parks and recreational opportunities while creating and sustaining healthy livable communities
- Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Reauthorization
- National Heritage Area Program Legislation
- Stabilized Funding for the National Heritage Program
- Yuma East Wetlands Conservation
- Quechan Riverfront Park

#### Local Solutions vs Statewide Solutions

- Recent proliferation of legislation preempts the ability of Yuma to formulate solutions to local problems
- One-size-fits-all approaches do not work for Arizona as each area is unique in its desires, location, economy, quality of life and even climate
- Yuma recognizes that the legislation is often a reaction to concerns in the metropolitan areas in the Valley and the metropolitan areas in southern Arizona, or in disputes between industries looking to get an advantage over one another
- While the legislation may solve those issues, the broad sweeps of the new laws handcuff local jurisdictions, especially rural jurisdictions, from being able to solve the problems of the constituency
- Nonetheless, there are many issues that are statewide and do require a statewide solution

#### Cross Over Week

- All introduced bills must have been heard in committee by last week, if no committee, the bill dies
- All bills heard and passed through committees “cross-over” to other branch’s committee
- Breathes life into bills and amendments previously thought to be done
- Just shy of 1,900 bills proposed, over 1,000 died (it costs just over \$1,000 to open a folder)

#### Roads (No fix this Year)

- Good News: No sweeps (third year in a row) of HURF/VLT
- But, solutions HB2436 (motor fuel inflation adjustment) and HB2437 (hybrid/electric road tax) did not get committee hearings
- Roads are statewide issue
- Fuel tax controlled by legislature

#### Fireworks

- City Council Resolution R2021-002
- SB1334 [Sen. Gowan] was held – died
- HB2854 [Rep. Fernandez] returning local control over fireworks except for days surrounding July 4 Independence Day holiday – did not go committee – dead
- HB2623 [Rep Shah] local control between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to COW (Committee of the Whole) and third

Other Proposed Legislation

- HB2049 [Rep. Weninger] eminent domain; existing contracts [crossed]
- HB2108 [Rep. Weninger] telecommunications; public rights of way; use; fees
- HB2716 [Rep. Griffin] licensing; building permits; temporary permits
- HB2861 [Rep. Kaiser] building permit; fees
- SB1409 [Sen. Petersen] zoning ordinances; property rights; fees
- SB1258 [Sen. Mesnard] state of emergency; tolling; permits
- SB1721 [President Fann] Transaction Privilege Tax for Prime Contracting – classification
- SB1252 [Sen. Petersen] corporate tax phase out
- SB1333 [Sen. Gowan] law enforcement budget; prohibition
- SB1377 [Sen. Leach] pandemic civil liability

Preemption Bills

- SB1487 [Sen. Leach] private attorney retention for cities/towns and counties
- HB2808 [Rep. Pingerelli] executive session attorney
- HB2882 [Rep. Parker] mobile food vending preemption
- SB1103 [Rep. Mesnard] **\*\*strike everything\*\*** three tobacco bills merged into one, tobacco lobby preempts local authority
- SB1224/HB2372 [Sen. Kerr/Rep. Dunn] agriculture nuisance

Public Safety Bills

- HB2506 [Rep. Payne] workers' comp; rates; firefighters; cancer
- HB2348 [Rep. D. Hernandez] failure to return vehicle; stolen; repeal
- SB1533 [Sen. Boyer] street racing
- HB2152 [Rep. Kavanagh] redactions body cam
- HB2295 [Rep. Payne] law enforcement database
- HB2765 [Rep. Bolding] deadly force investigations
- HB2791 [Rep. Payne] approps police training equipment

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

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Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor