

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CITIZEN'S FORUM
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
April 16, 2019
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council Citizen's Forum to order at 5:35 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Watts, Thomas, Knight, McClendon, Miller, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Gregory K. Wilkinson
Various department heads or their representatives
City Attorney, Richard W. Files
City Clerk, Lynda Bushong

I. GOWAN ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Theodore Thorp, Pueblo Elementary School and Gowan Achievement Program (GAP) Science Teacher, explained that GAP is designed to challenge students at a rigorous academic level with a focus on real-world learning experiences and challenge-based learning. With challenge-based learning, students are provided with a challenge or question and then are tasked to not only go out and identify the problem, but come up with a solution to the problem. The most recent challenge was to look at children's needs; specifically how children's needs are not currently being met on playgrounds and in public play areas. While the initial focus was on the Pueblo Elementary School campus, the students came up with a solution that could be implemented citywide.

Pueblo Elementary School students **Rosario, Steven, Lailie, Michael, and Avianna** (The Students) introduced themselves and took turns summarizing their project. They explained that the problem that they uncovered was that students on the 4th-6th grade playground are getting dehydrated because there is no shade and the water fountains are located far from the playground. The solution they came up with was to install a shaded water fountain close to the playground. The budget of \$18,000 covered the total cost of \$16,189 and allowed for any unexpected expenses. They displayed a blueprint and a model of their shaded water fountains, which include an area for drinking and an area for filling reusable water bottles which would help reduce plastic waste.

McClendon commended the students on their presentation and stated that one reason she wanted the students to present to City Council is because their idea could be put to use throughout the City of Yuma in areas such as the East and West Wetlands. **McClendon** asked what sources were utilized to come up with the budget. **The Students** responded that they looked at Home Depot and other hardware stores.

Thomas asked if the shade structure is intended to cover just the water fountain or if it will also cover the playground. **The Students** answered that it will be large enough to cover two water fountains.

Shelton asked what part of the project was the most fun. **The Students** stated that making the model was their favorite part of the project, though it was challenging getting the shade structure to stay up.

Knight asked if the students would be constructing the actual shaded water fountains on the playground. **The Students** replied that they probably would not.

Watts asked if there were funds to start the project. The students stated that there were not. **Watts** asked if they were planning to conduct a fundraiser, to which **The Students** replied that they may. **Watts** expressed hope that they raise the money to complete the project because it would be great to see it completed.

Miller asked what the water fountains in the model are made of. **The Students** stated that they are made of clay. **Miller** praised the students for their creativity and for a job well done.

Mayor Nicholls requested that **Thorp** and the students remain after the meeting is recessed so that City Council can take a closer look at the model and speak to the students.

II. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Knight/Thomas): To adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor