

# City Manager Report

## From the City Manager

### Bears and Trash

City Council has requested that I address the issue of human/bear conflicts in this report. Coincidentally, I had planned on bringing this to Council's attention, as I believe that the city needs to take a more proactive stance with regard to human/bear conflict in order to better protect the wildlife and improve public safety.

Following are statistics and information on bear and wildlife calls received by SSPD and Colorado Parks and Wildlife:

- SSPD bear-related calls for service 2019 so far in 2019 is 167. Total calls for 2018 was 86 and 2017 was 158.
- CPW had 114 "bear incidents" within City limits since April 1. This includes any call CPW personnel received regarding bear activity.
- Incidents reported include the sightings, property damage, home intrusions, bears in garbage. The majority of calls we have received are related to bears in trash. Each of these incidents required some level of staff time whether by advice given on phone or onsite visits which include education, placing signs, setting traps, etc.

As you can see, we are spending a lot of time and energy being reactive to this issue, rather than proactive. My experience in resort communities has been extremely positive with both more progressive solid waste ordinances and an aggressive public education campaign. I recommend we schedule a work session to review our current ordinance, compare ourselves to other mountain communities, and propose improvements to our current legislation. I welcome your thoughts and a brief discussion.

### Yampa Valley Electric Franchise Agreement

Our Yampa Valley Electric Association Franchise Agreement expires on October 31, 2019. We have begun our internal review of the document for renewal, and will meet with YVEA staff this month to begin negotiations.

### Kudos

Kudos to the officiating crews for softball, hockey, and soccer leagues. These officials have been diligent with keeping our leagues safe and fair.

Kudos to David Van Winkle, Tom Martindale, and the rest of the Streets crew for a very successful 2019 Paving Program, especially with the challenging weather we had. They did a great job completing the work before the holiday weekend, and our roads are looking great.

## From the Departments

### Planning

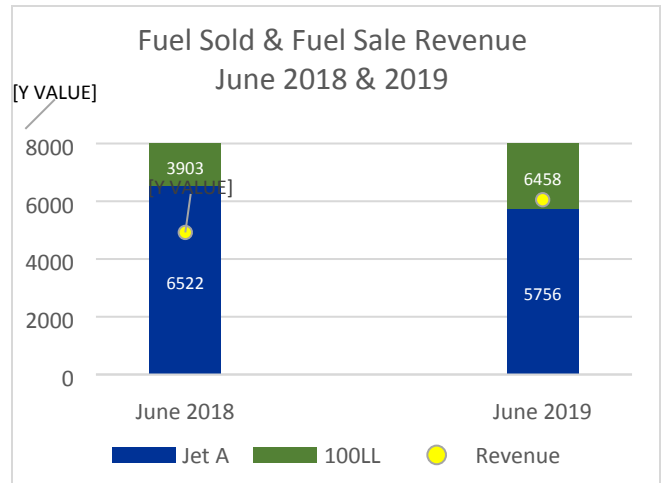
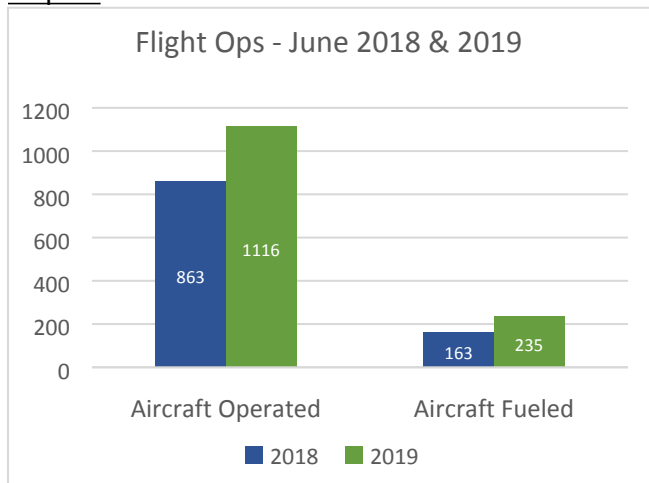
- There are currently 57 projects at some stage of the development review process. No projects are showing as late in receiving DRT (previously TAC) review comments.
- Updates on projects:
  - Vacation Rental Committee recommendations – researching outsourcing options for registration and compliance enforcement.
  - Sign Code Update – working with legal to finalize content-neutral definitions and sign types.
  - Base Area Plan Scope and RFP – collaborating with URAAC to draft the Request for Proposals.
  - Land Management Software – The contract documents have been finalized with CityView, and the City/County cost share has been agreed upon with Routt

County Regional Building Department. An internal project team has been established to oversee and direct the implementation. The team includes a steering committee, project sponsor, project manager, subject matter experts, database and IT experts, and end user testers.

- Development Review improvement strategy – The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been renamed the Development Review Team (D.R.T.). A charter is being drafted to include mission, purpose, and policies to guide and direct the work of the team.
- National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS) – We are preparing for our 5-Year cycle visit and audit.
- Code Compliance – streamlining the procedures for approval, renewal, and enforcement of Revocable Licenses for permanent and portable signs, display, etc. in the public right-of-way.

**Public Works**

**Airport**



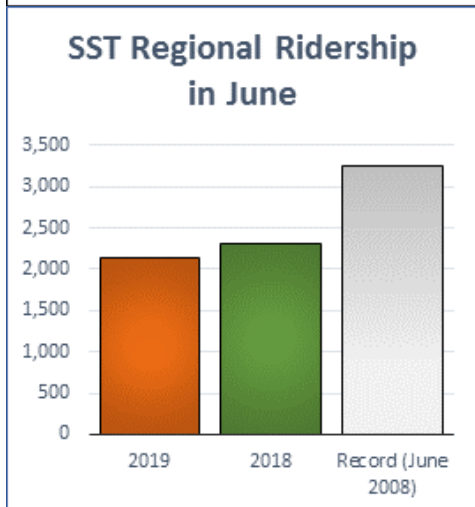
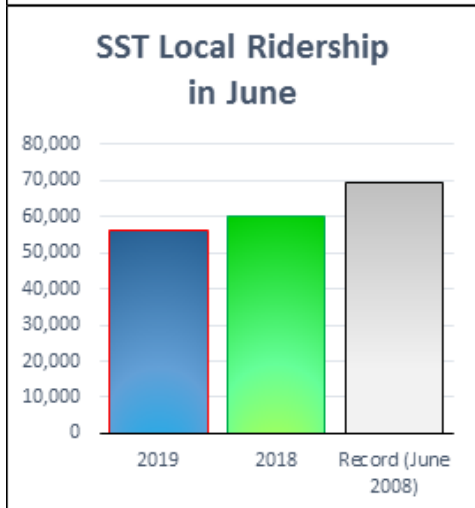
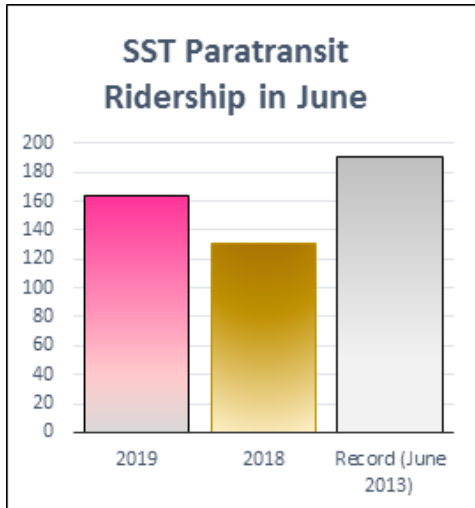
- The Airport was excited to host a Skywagon Convention over the last week of June. A Skywagon is a type of single-engine Cessna. 56 airplanes and approximately 122 people attended the event. See photo of the Airport ramp below.



- The FBO implemented the new Aviation Point of Sale software on June 17th. The new system will handle all customer financial transactions at the Airport. The new system was implemented with goals of safer credit card transactions for our customers, PCI compliance, and process modernization.
- The Airport Master Plan consultants, DOWL, hosted the third and final Advisory Committee meeting and Public Open House. Alternative designs were discussed and feedback was collected from the committee members and those who attended the open house. City Council will receive another update in the fall. The Master Plan should be completed in December, 2019.

**Transit**

- Cost per passenger is currently \$4.01 per passenger for the summer season. This is 6% more (\$0.21) than the cost per passenger for last summer.
- Steamboat Springs Transit buses are trending at 93% on time and 7% late. This compares to 90% on time and 10% late, last summer.



Streets

- The 2019 Paving Program was completed during the last week of June. Now that the Paving Program has been completed, crews have begun work on shouldering.
- Mainline striping has also been completed. Crews continue to work on crosswalk striping, parking lot striping, and curb painting.

Water and Sewer

- The punch list for the 2018 Riverside Water Main Replacement Project was completed, and the streets within the neighborhood were overlaid as part of the 2019 Paving Program.
- The cover of the West Area Water Tank had to be redesigned to accommodate the correct snow loads expected at the site. The redesign has now been completed, and so the next step in the County Planning process involves a final land survey for the plat. The field work for the survey should be complete by July 5th. Staff is optimistic that the plat will be completed and the land deal finalized by late fall 2019.
- Construction for the Copper Mountain Estates Water Main Replacement Project has been progressing nicely. Crews from Duckels Construction have completed approximately 1,200 linear feet, which represents about 1/3 of the project. Work should be substantially complete by mid-August.

Wastewater

- The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) held its Regulation 33 Rulemaking Hearing in Grand Junction on June 10th & 11th to adopt revised stream temperature standards for the Yampa River, the outcome of which had potentially costly implications for the city's wastewater treatment plant. Jennifer Bock, City Staff Attorney, represented the city throughout the regulatory process with the support of Kelly Romero-Heaney, Water Resources Manager, and Jessica DiToro with Leonard Rice Engineers. Thanks to the City's early engagement on Regulation 33 and its proactive approach to restoring stream temperature through flow releases and tree-planting, the WQCC adopted the city's

proposal for a 5-year temporary modification to the stream standard for temperature. This temporary modification allows the City time to resolve uncertainty around thermal sources, the effectiveness of flow and riparian restoration activities, and the economic and social feasibility of built infrastructure (i.e. cooling technologies at the plant) to comply with standards. It also allows the City time to explore market and incentive based compliance solutions that promote river and watershed-scale restoration over point-source pollutant removal. Over the next several years, the City will have to spend additional money gathering data and studying alternative approaches, but these expenditures will be orders of magnitude less than costly capital improvement upgrades to the plant. Expect to see the wastewater operating budget to reflect these additional expenditures. Also, the WQCC will be holding its annual retreat in Steamboat Springs Sept. 9th-10th and would like to conduct a meet and greet with local officials in addition to a tour of the Yampa River led by city staff on Sept. 8th.

- Throughout June, the Wastewater Treatment Plant treated nearly 120 million gallons of wastewater. This compares to approximately 100 million gallons treated in June 2018.

#### Engineering

- As of July 2nd, 214 development reviews have been submitted with a review due date in calendar year 2019. 100% of plan reviews have been delivered to the Planning Department from the Engineering Division on time, with 16 reviews currently in queue.
- Construction on 13th Street by Giovanni Construction to complete planned sidewalks has begun with underground utility location efforts. Major work including traffic detours are expected to begin in late July/early August.
- Fish Creek Underpass construction is expected to begin in early August. Crews from Native Excavating plan to start work along the creek banks as soon as Fish Creek

water levels drop to levels where work can safely and effectively be performed.

- Butcherknife Floodplain Improvements and Eagle Scout Restroom – bid documents have been released to potential contractors and a pre-bid meeting was held on July 1st. Bids are planned to be opened on July 22nd. Due to the amount of work to perform and the constraints placed on the contractor to reduce impacts to traffic and events, bid provisions give the contractor until fall 2020 to complete construction. An incentive payment of \$20,000 is being offered if the contractor can complete work along Oak Street in 2019 and have the road open prior to the Halloween Stroll traffic detour. The incentive intent is twofold: get critical work performed so as not to worry about Lincoln Avenue detours in 2020 and also to align with the desired repaving of Oak Street as part of next year's pavement maintenance program.
- Staff performed monitoring of flooding during the June 21-22 event. Overtopping of channel banks were noted in the Burgess Creek drainage basin. The most notable flooding occurred on the newly constructed Homewood Suites hotel site. Prior to construction, the property owner performed appropriate study of floodplain elevations, received permits from the Planning Department as required to construct within the floodplain as allowed by current code, and set the structure 2.5 feet above the 100-year flood level. The flooding experienced this year was not a result of Walton Creek flood elevations, but rather a historic ditch that diverts water from Walton Creek further up the basin that unbeknownst to the property owner leads drainage toward the hotel site. Staff have made themselves available to the owner of the hotel for assistance, having met with them multiple times in the lead up to and during the late June event. Rough calculations, based on stream gauge data and FEMA flood flows projections, estimate that during the June event the Yampa reached a 5-year event, Walton Creek less than a 10-year event, and Fish Creek less than a 10-year event. In

contrast, the Elk River exceeded a 100-year event.

- Along with Ski and Resort Corp, staff hosted an event to review data gathered at the Gondola Transit Center throughout the winter. Data collection included vehicle volumes by type including “dwell time”, passengers, pedestrian movements, and weather conditions. Major takeaways include: very few passengers arrive or depart by passenger vehicle, the area experiences large pedestrian volumes, pedestrians crossing Mt. Werner just north of the GTC in the afternoon peak hour tend to keep shuttles and buses from departing due to a lack of gaps for vehicles during that time, and average vehicle dwell times for vehicles using the GTC is about 2 minutes. The data will be used to identify short term and long term GTC improvement recommendations.

### **Parks and Recreation**

#### **Howelsen Ski and Rodeo Complex Division**

- City Staff completed pre-operational maintenance on the Barrows Chairlift to prepare for Summer operations.
- City Staff conducted lift trainings for Lift Foreman and Lift Operators for SSWSC Alpine Slide operations.
- Landmark engineering was hired to stake proposed lift tower locations for both manufacturers for the Barrows Chair replacement project. Staking was completed on 6-19.
- City staff have been working through challenging conditions in the jump outrun area of Howelsen Hill. The area has remained wet throughout Spring and early Summer. The new sod is being impacted from the numerous events in the area.
- Opening weekend for the Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo saw low attendance due to unfavorable weather conditions, numbers rebounded the following weekend and were quite strong for the July Fourth weekend.
- Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo Series Board completed improvements to their sound

system this year, adding two new speakers to cover the concrete bleachers.

#### **Open Space and Trails Division**

- A new agreement is in place with Steamboat Gardens Ditch owners that will allow the new Spring Creek downhill bike only trail to cross the ditch, and for construction of a new hiking only trail to replace the unsanctioned “ditch trail” that trespasses on private property. City Trails and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Staff have begun construction of the new hiking only trail. Additionally, staff is working with property owners and Routt County Public Works to install a new gate on Routt County Road #34 and improve signage to educate trail users, improve safety and minimize conflicts on Spring Creek.
- Routt County Riders has begun work to complete construction of the new Spring Creek alternate bike trail to accommodate all downhill bike traffic in the Spring Creek canyon. This trail is funded by 2A Trail Accommodation Funds.
- Staff helped with fireworks set up and clean up during the 4th of July week. Staff also set up fireworks safety closures on Emerald and provided extra trash removal around the 4th of July.
- After the late June snow, Staff removed numerous downed trees from City trails.
- Staff continues to monitor trail closures due to high water flows.
- Noxious weed spraying continues on Emerald after contractors were set back by the late June moisture.

#### **Parks Division**

- Staff continues to work with users of the Emerald Park Sports Complex and the Botanic Park to minimize parking conflicts at the undersized parking lot. Staff is limiting the size of tournaments, has designated 30 spaces for the Botanic Park with 100 spaces for the Sports Complex and requires a Community Service Officer to be present for events/tournaments with more than 75 people in attendance. Staff will continue to review this new policy and revise it as necessary.

- The Parks Maintenance Division has a vacant full-time equipment operator position which is posted to accept applications.
- The Triple Crown Baseball tournament June 21st -23rd was completely rained out without a single game played due to wet weather.
- Triple Crown Slowpitch Softball had 98 teams June 28th – 30th.
- Volleyball of the Rockies had the Steamboat Doubles Volleyball tournament July 4th-7th in multiple parks with over 500 doubles teams.
- Parks crews assisted with fireworks setup and teardown and trash cleanup at Howelsen Park.

#### Adult Sports and Field Scheduling

- Summer adult sports had a break in action during the week of July 1st. A few leagues had make-up games from earlier rainouts in the season. The second half of the season will resume on Monday, July 8th.
- Registered teams for each sport include:
  - Sand Volleyball – 4v4 & 2v2 Leagues – 68 total teams
  - Soccer – 6 total teams
  - Softball – 40 total teams
  - Hockey – 12 total teams
- Officiating crews have been solid during the first half of the season. We are continuing to bring new officials on to train and help with the workload.
- Field bookings are constant and we have been able to accommodate most requests with the recent nice weather. We have a few user groups who have extended their seasons due to early season rainouts.
- All invoices have gone out to user groups for their field use during the month of May. June’s field use invoices will be sent out the week of July 8th.

#### Youth Programs

- Session 1 registration for the 2019-2020 school year will open on July 29th. Available programs will include Afterschool Action, School Days Off, ASSET Clubs, and Middle school programs.
- Seniors trips have been very successful, with 9 seniors attending the sailing trip in Frisco,

and 12 heading to the Lake Dillon Theater to see Mama Mia! In July.

- After 6 years with the City of Steamboat, Megan Robertson has turned in her resignation and will be leaving her position at the end of summer programs. Her Recreation Specialist position will be posted ASAP.

#### Howelsen Ice Arena

- Rocky Mountain Hockey Schools completed their 12th summer camp in as many years last week at the Howelsen Ice Complex.
- Rink Staff installed an aluminum recycling receptacle at Howelsen beach on July 4th. Over 50 gallons of crushed cans were collected over the weekend. The same units were previously installed at the ice arena as part of a rink recycling initiative.

#### Marketing and Events

- The department hosted its second Town Challenge MTB Race of the season on Wednesday, June 19th at Mount Werner. Attendance continues to be high with approximately 140 racers and well over 50 spectators in attendance. The next race of the series will be held on Wednesday, July 10th at Emerald Mountain and will include a fun post-race party at Howelsen Hill.
- Staff assisted in the planning, setup and execution of a very successful 4th of July fireworks show.
- The Parks & Recreation Roundup Newsletter continues to be popular amongst our customers, partners and user groups. Goals for year one of the publication included an average open rate of at least 21% and a click rate of at least 6%. To date, the newsletter is experiencing an open rate of 42.17% and a click rate of 14.83%, well above the current benchmarks.
- Planning is underway for 2019-2020 Ski Free Sundays at Howelsen Hill, including event sponsorships and enhanced Sunday Funday events.
- As part of the new event permitting process, Parks and Recreation staff have participated in the review/approval of 38 Special Event Permit applications to date.

#### Haymaker and Golf Course

- So far we have had a very successful July with rounds well exceeding 200+ per day over the holiday weekend.
- We have had nothing but rave reviews thus far on golf course conditions this season.
- Our weekly Monday ladies clinics have been extremely successful averaging well over 30 women per night. Our Tuesday night ladies league has also grown in popularity this year.
- Last month we kicked off our inaugural Steamboat Springs Junior League matches between Haymaker, Catamount, and Rollingstone junior teams. This is the first year of this program and features friendly matches for kids age 9-14 years old. Haymaker is the host club for this new league.
- Demo Days in June were all very successful with orders from all 3 days totaling \$23,000.
- Due to the wet weather and course closures, our total rounds played through June 30th were down by 1,200 rounds.
- Despite the weather, season pass and punch card sales are significantly higher compared to 2018 and total golf course revenue up

\$34,000 as of June 30th. Merchandise sales are also up \$5,000.

- The Haymaker maintenance team is beginning drainage projects on #1 fairway, #8 rough and #18 greens surround, repairing a broken section of 4" drain line on #7 discovered after heavy precipitation, adding sand to hazards to improve playability, performing vertical cutting for greens is scheduled for July 9th and 11th, completed sod projects on #15 & #18 surround, and completed overseeding projects on #18 and #16 tee complex.

#### Administration

- Parks and Recreation has 5 open full-time positions, please send qualified candidates to the city website to apply.
- Continuing to work on the PROSTR Master Plan with the Review and Implementation Committee. The Plan is being presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for final review and recommendation during the July 24th meeting.

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