



## **Parks & Rec Cost Recovery & Hill Climb Event Highlight Discussion at Council's March 5 Regular Meeting**

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO—March 1, 2019**—City Council will discuss the dollars and sense behind the Parks & Recreation Cost Recovery Model as well as throttle up conversation on the requested special event at Howelsen Hill, the Snowmobile Hill Climb and B Festival, during its first regular meeting of March, set for 5pm on Tuesday evening, March 5.

“One of Council’s primary goals is Fiscal Sustainability for the city and the cost recovery efforts look to finalize a long-term strategy for Parks & Recreation based on community input, stakeholder engagement and council direction,” said Parks & Recreation Director Angela Cosby. “The program sets the building blocks for our future and lays out expectations around the programs and services provided to the community.”

During the June 2018 work session, Council recommended that the Parks & Recreation Commission and staff evaluate the recommendations of the 2018 Pass User Fee Study. Since then, the Commission has discussed this topic five times between June 2018 and February 2019 arriving at the endorsed approach.

The proposed cost recovery model is based on the overarching criteria around community vs individual benefit; using a pyramid strategy and methodology that takes into account important community principals such as history, heritage, sense of place, economic climate and community priorities. Parks & Recreation Commissioners reached a consensus regarding the percentage of cost recovery by category and the correlation of service area within each category during a session this month.

This general topic has been in front of Council for the past 3 years, however this is the first time the dais will view the proposed strategy. Additionally, it is anticipated the plan would come before Council at a future meeting for approval and that subsequent cost changes would be implemented in 2019, if possible.

Following the Cost Recovery discussion, an update on the special event application from Triple Crown Sports for a Snowmobile Hill Climb and B Fest in 2020 will occur from staff and the applicant. The Hill Climb features professional snowmobiles tacking an uphill course at the historic ski area combined with a music concert and festival featuring BBQ, Bourbon and Braaps. Energizing Howelsen Hill with additional programming, especially in off season timeframes, have been a focus for the city. Community thoughts have been spilt on the event.

While Council will not vote on either of these topics this evening, it will seek to fully understand the benefits/risks and community insights, discuss the matter as a group and propose a direction for staff. This could mean coming back with additional information, making changes, moving forward for approval, taking no action or heading in an entirely different path.

The 5pm regular meeting will be held in Citizens Meeting Room of Centennial Hall and these two topics kick off community reports/council discussion after general reports from councilors and the city manager. Public comment is typically called for by Council President Lacy on each topic. For more information, the public can view the agenda and full packet for the meeting at [steamboatsprings.net/agendas](http://steamboatsprings.net/agendas).

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