

City Manager Report

From the Departments

Parks and Recreation

Howelsen Ski and Rodeo

- Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club (SSWSC) began holding competitions at Howelsen Hill beginning with a high school alpine race on January 28th and four days of alpine racing last week with the re-scheduled annual Holiday Classic.
- Howelsen Hill hosted a scaled down 108th Winter Carnival February 4-7th.
- Howelsen Hill hosted its second world Pro Ski Tour race as part of the Winter Carnival festivities. This year featured two races on February 6th and February 8th both livestreamed on local television.
- Howelsen public attendance numbers remain strong including fully reserved Ski Free Sundays and a very busy Presidents' Day weekend.
- Howelsen staff and members of Finance and IT have been exploring new software systems for ticketing and point of sale for Howelsen Hill next season. The goal is to improve the customer experience both online and in-person for tickets and pass products.
- Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo Board is planning a return to action in summer 2021. Discussions and planning are ongoing with regards to season schedule and structure to produce a safe and successful series.

Parks, Open Space, and Trails Division

- The local Mad Creek fire module from the State of Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control recently assisted staff with hazard tree removal on Emerald Mountain trails. The crew safely removed several dangerous snags leaning over the Blair Witch trail from the windstorm in the fall.

- After receiving notification from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) that the city was not awarded the Resilient Communities Grant, staff collaborated with Routt County Riders (RCR) and the Yampa Valley Community Foundation to potentially fund the repair and maintenance work needed for the NPR trail in 2021. The Community Foundation has been approached by potential donors for the project, and if funded, the city would contract with RCR to accomplish the goals of the project. RCR would be the steward of the funding and would be responsible for hiring a contractor to comply with the terms of the contract. The city would contribute \$4,000 that was awarded for work on NPR by the Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund.
- After the first reading of an ordinance to implement a \$5 Recreational Tube fee, staff has contacted local tube retailers about the upcoming second reading of the ordinance at the March 2nd City Council meeting.
- During the March 2nd City Council meeting, staff will be presenting a recommendation from Parks and Recreation Commission to allow commercial tube and angling outfitters to flex their approved daily permitted allotments to be used as needed each month while not exceeding the total monthly allotment. Based on review of the Yampa River Management Plan policies, goals and monitoring plan and input from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the city's Water Resources Manager, the Commission supported staff's recommendation to implement this change in policy and monitor what (if any) impacts are observed with this change. This resolution and the second reading of an ordinance implementing a \$5 Recreational Tube Fee and a ban on

disposable containers on the river will wrap up the past year's discussions with Parks and Recreation Commission and public input.

- Also during the March 2nd City Council meeting, staff will be providing City Council with a presentation on the first reading of an ordinance for a 15 MPH speed limit on specific trails and trial periods for the use of Class 1 and/or Class 2 e-bikes on specific trails within the city.
- Based on City Council and public comments/concerns, staff is working with a local contractor to design a new trail etiquette messaging campaign. Staff plans to install new signs along the Yampa River Core Trail this summer with messages about proper trail etiquette and an emphasis on sharing the trail and user safety. The vision is to grow the program onto more trails and the Yampa River as funding allows.
- Recruitment and hiring for the summer season has begun for the Open Space and Trails crew.
- A new license agreement has been signed with the Colorado State University Extension Office for use of Legacy Ranch for haying and grazing cattle. The terms of the agreement are consistent with previous agreements but now it has a 5-year term instead of a 1-year term. A license agreement allows more flexibility for the city to terminate if necessary, compared to a lease. Management of the parcel for nesting birds, wildlife migration, efficient use of water rights, and agriculture use continue to be high priorities for the city.
- Staff has been receiving and commenting on numerous Special Event applications for use of city parks and trails this summer.
- Staff continues to plow sidewalks, trails, and the Tennis Center and clean the two public restrooms at Fetcher Park and 7th Street.
- Staff has chipped and mulched 1,984 Christmas trees to date with plans to provide free mulch to the community this spring.
- The Steamboat Soccer Club has requested use of the Emerald Park parking lot for early

season outdoor play and will be paying the city for initial snow removal and use fees.

Adult Sports

- We are hopeful to restart adult hockey and other indoor opportunities in the next month.
- Planning and preparation for summer adult programming has begun with hopes to hold outdoor adult sport leagues for our community members. Adult sports typically offered include soccer, softball, and volleyball, with options to explore additional opportunities for leagues, events, or tournaments.
- The outdoor ice rinks are heading into their 13th week of operation and the rinks continue to have heavy daily usage.
- Recent snow fall has hindered the outdoor ice maintenance schedule and community members have made a valiant effort to assist with snow removal.

Youth Programs

- The school district has implemented a phased approach for kids to return to school fulltime. K-2 will begin fulltime in person learning on February 22nd with grades 3-5 tentatively scheduled to return fulltime on March 8th. Programs will transition to an Afterschool Program using this timeline and will continue to offer full day programs to those who need it while in transition.
- Interviews for the Recreation Specialist will begin on March 1st. We hope to have this person in place by the beginning of April.
- Summer Camp registration will open on March 29th at 8:00AM. Our current plan includes hosting two camps at Soda Creek Elementary, with a third at the Fireplace Room in Howelsen Lodge. Programs at the Community Center will end on May 28th.

Marketing and Events

- Staff has hosted three successful Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series races thus far this season. Participation numbers continue to be strong, with several races selling out and

having waitlists. The next race of the season takes place on March 17th at Steamboat Resort. Visit www.townchallenge.com to learn more about the sport of SkiMo and the Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series.

- Initial planning is underway for the summer Town Challenge MTB Race Series.
- Over the past month, the Parks and Recreation Facebook page saw increases across all metrics including page views, page likes, post engagements, and post reach. The most popular posts (most reach) during the past month on the Parks and Recreation page included the following topics: Beacon Basin at Howelsen Hill (6.2K), Sulphur Cave Designation (1.2K), Town Challenge Ski Ascent Series (475), and Howelsen Hill Uphill Policy (436).
- Total Howelsen Hill merchandise sales for the 2020-2021 season are \$3,050.13 to date. This includes long and short sleeve t-shirts designed by Ohana, hats, beanies, headbands, buffs, pins and stickers. Staff are exploring options for offering online merchandise sales for the 2021-2022 season.
- There are currently 8 active Nordic Ambassador volunteers with 145 hours logged to date this season. We have awarded a total of 6 Senior Nordic Passes and 4 Adult Nordic Passes thus far to volunteers that have completed the required hours.
- Staff continues to see a steady stream of event permits and field requests being submitted for the upcoming summer.

Howelsen Ice Arena

- There are three openings on the Ice Rink Advisory Committee. Applications are due by March 31st with interviews scheduled with the Parks and Recreation Commission on April 14th.
- The Ice Arena passed its annual state bumper car inspection. With Routt County potentially moving to Level Yellow on the covid dial, bumper car operations will likely resume in March.
- The Ice Arena passed its follow up 5-Star inspection for Routt County.

- The rink continues to operate with reduced capacity, offering drop in stick and puck, freestyle skating, and public skates by reservation only. Public calendars can be found at www.steamboatsprings.net/ice.
- High school and youth hockey programs are operating under state approved Colorado High School Athletic Association and Colorado Amateur Hockey Association mitigation plans.

Parks Projects

- Howelsen Ice Arena Expansion Project: staff is currently working to advertise the Request for Proposal (RFP) the Ice Arena project. Proposals for construction are due late March. Construction is anticipated to begin early summer in 2021.
- Howelsen Hill Chair Lift Installation Project: staff continues to work with SkyTrac on the final tower foundation engineering. The chair lift installation is anticipated to begin the first of June 2021 with completion for the 2021-22 ski season.
- US 40 Median Landscaping Improvements Project: bids have been received for the median project. Procurement is working to award a contractor with the project.
- Yampa River Channel Restoration and Access: staff is working with the design consultant on the 90% plans. Construction is anticipated late summer or early fall of 2021.
- Parks Shop Storage Building: the RFP for the Parks Shop Storage Building project is currently advertised with proposals due March 11th. Construction is anticipated to begin in early spring 2021.
- Core Trail Pedestrian Lighting Project: staff has selected the new tariff pedestrian lights thru Yampa Valley Electric Association (YVEA). YVEA is currently reviewing the selection. Once approved the design work for the trail corridor can begin.
- Howelsen Hill Stables Trailhead Bathroom: staff is working with SEAD Engineering to develop a feasibility study for this building/project. This study will provide a

project scope, engineer's estimate, and code study.

Botanic Park

- The Botanic Park is working on garden renovation plans for the 2021 season.
- Work in fundraising is prioritized.
- Will begin interviews for the Horticulture Intern and seasonal staff soon.

Haymaker Golf Course

- Haymaker has begun advertising for seasonal positions for the summer. We are expecting a similarly busy summer to last year and are trying to ramp up our staffing now to be prepared for a possible early and busy start to the season.
- Haymaker is excited to welcome back the Junior Golf Alliance of Colorado for a large junior golf event on June 1st. Over a decade ago, Haymaker hosted an annual event with the Colorado Junior Golf Association (now JGAC) that brought junior golfers from around the state to compete at Haymaker. This is a great addition to our numerous Junior Golf Academy offerings, PGA Junior League, and recent collaborations with neighboring courses and we believe this JGAC event will put an exclamation point on our already robust junior golf offerings at Haymaker. We are excited to welcome them back!
- Steamboat Springs High students have started a project building 20 new birdhouses for the golf course property. The birdhouses will be located in environmentally sensitive and wetland areas to provide safe habitat for migratory birds.
- Staff have begun constructing a new foot bridge that will connect the practice putting green area and the driving range facility.

Planning

- Development Review: there are currently 71 projects at some stage of the development review process; no projects are currently late in receiving DRT review comments. Effective February 2nd, development review deadlines have been extended by one week in order to

calibrate current workload with staff capacity and maintain quality service. This change is in keeping with the city's Development Review Team Policies and Procedures.

- Mountain Area Master Plan: the project team will kick off another round of community engagement activities in March to collect feedback on the key problems and potential solutions identified through the planning process. Informational boards and a survey on the EngageSteamboat website: <https://www.engagesteamboat.net/mamp> are designed to educate participants on the key problems and collect input on their level of support for different solutions. Following review by the Advisory Committee, the survey is anticipated to be open for comment on the website March 1-21, 2021. The project team will work with Mike Lane to publicize the opportunity to provide input for the plan. Attachment 1 includes more information on the outreach plan, key discussion topics, and the timeline for plan completion.
- Code Compliance: a total of 20 code enforcement cases have been opened to date in 2021. There are 41 open cases pending resolution.
- CityView: CityView system configuration is nearly complete and Planning, Engineering, Building, Enforcement, and Clerk staff have completed validation training. City staff is now testing each workflow, application type, approval track, template, and fee to validate the system configuration and submit feedback tickets to the CityView project team for correction. We anticipate a concurrent City and County Go Live date at the end of May/beginning of June.
- Short-Term Rental Program: a RFP for short-term rental compliance services is being released the first week of March. Staff is drafting a licensing ordinance to bring to City Council in the next couple of months

Public Works

Wastewater

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 79 million gallons of wastewater in the month of

January. This is up slightly from January 2020 when 76 million gallons of wastewater were treated.

Streets

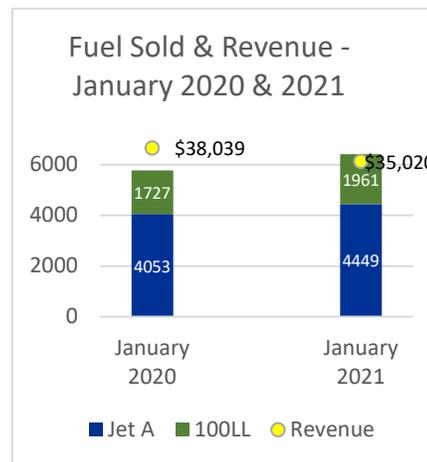
- With nearly 21 inches of snowfall in January, crews removed 410 loads (7,380 yards) of snow and swept 51 yards of material from city streets. Crews also responded to 18 requests for locates, issued 124 parking warnings and 40 tickets, and began work on the 2021 paving program, coring holes for pavement thickness. Per the request of the Lighting Committee, crews assembled two mockup light poles for future installation on the core trail and base area.

Engineering

- 2021 is showing signs of heavy development review activity. As of February 22nd, 83 development applications have been submitted with a review due date in the calendar year (compared to 62 applications as of the same time period in 2020). 13 reviews are currently in queue. Of the completed reviews, 94% met the internal review deadline and 100% met the external review deadline.
- Development review timeframes have been extended by one week due to significant application load. Engineering is also seeing a high number of traffic and drainage study scope approval requests, which is a precursor to future applications.
- RCD Construction out of Hayden is the low bidder for the Rodeo Grounds Parking Lot project. Staff is beginning coordination and planning with RCD to prepare for construction as soon as conditions allow.
- Steamboat Boulevard/Mount Werner Roundabout, Mount Werner Streetscape (Segment 4B), and US40 West Sidewalk Connection are all out to bid with openings on March 16th, 23rd, and 31st respectively.
- SGM has been selected as the design consultant for the US40 West Trail project. Staff is currently working to formalize contract terms and fee with SGM in

anticipation of beginning conceptual design and performing survey and geotechnical field work as soon as snow melts. This design effort will be a multi-year effort and is mostly funded via grant dollars from Colorado Department of Transportation and GOCO.

Airport



Water and Sewer

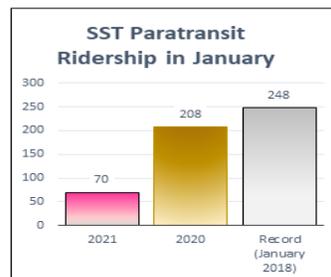
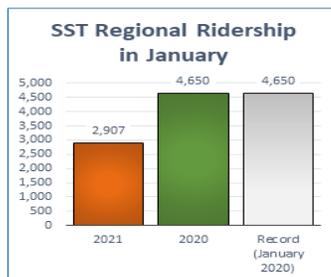
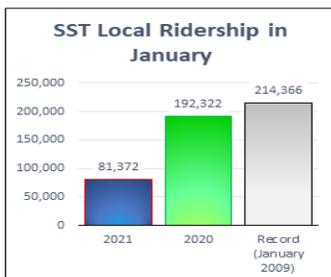
- Construction on the 1M gallon water storage tank in West Steamboat is anticipated to restart again in May 2021, weather permitting, and is anticipated to be completed by November 2021.
- The RFP for the 2021 Utility Rate Study Update was published on February 8th with proposals due by March 10th. The city updates the utility rate study every three years with the last update completed in 2019 that developed a rate and fee schedule for 2020 through 2022.
- Final design of the infiltration gallery expansion will begin in March 2021. This

project consists of the construction of 4 vertical wells adjacent to the city’s existing horizontal infiltration gallery. The current schedule for the project anticipates completion of the engineering design and permitting sometime in late summer 2021 with construction beginning sometime in late summer 2021 or spring 2022.

- The first round of lead and copper sampling for 2021 is currently underway; sample results should be received in March.

Transit

- The pandemic continues to drastically reduce mass transit ridership throughout the world and Steamboat is no exception. Through the month of January, Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) carried 84,349 passengers, which is 58% down from January 2020 when SST carried 197,180 passengers.
- SST is operating at 93% on time basis with 7% of the buses arriving late.
- Cost per passenger this year is up 93%. This year’s average cost per passenger is \$4.62 compared to \$2.40, last year, which is attributable to the state health orders that limit bus capacity to 15 passengers or less.



Attachment #1



TO: City Council, Planning Commission, and Urban Redevelopment Authority Advisory Committee (URAAC)

FROM: Julie Baxter, AICP, CFM, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Rebecca Bessey, AICP, Planning and Community Development Director

DATE: February 22, 2021

RE: Mountain Area Master Plan Update – March Community Engagement Activities

The Mountain Area Master Plan (MAMP) project team will kick off another round of community engagement activities in March to get feedback on the potential actions and recommendations being considered for the plan. This memo includes information on the outreach plan, recent activities, key discussion topics, and next steps to project completion.

Upcoming Community Engagement

The purpose of the second round of community engagement in the MAMP is 1) to provide information on the findings so far, the key problems identified, and potential solutions and 2) to collect feedback on levels of support for different solutions.

The format of the engagement materials are informational boards – one on the plan activities to date and seven on the major topics of the plan with a summary of the key problems and potential solutions for each. Survey questions specific to each board will ask about the level of support for the proposed solutions. The informational boards and survey will be presented in an interactive format on the EngageSteamboat website at <https://www.engagesteamboat.net/mamp>.

Following review by the MAMP Advisory Committee, the project team anticipates the materials will be live on the website open for comment March 1-21, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not able to hold community workshops and are reliant on virtual tools for engaging the community. City staff will be promoting the opportunity to learn more and provide input on the MAMP via press releases, social media, and emails to boards and commissions and other list serves. The plan will be featured on the City Limits radio showing airing in March. City staff also will work with the newspaper on a potential article. Participants in the survey will have the chance to win a prize.

The project team will be doing targeted outreach through written updates, Zoom meetings, and presentations at regularly scheduled board meetings to the following stakeholders:

- Key Stakeholder Groups previously engaged: Gondola Transit Center (GTC) and Transportation; Economy/Business; Landowners/Developers/Real Estate; Public Safety & Community Resiliency; and Steamboat Ski Resort/Altterra
- Homeowners associations of properties along Ski Time Square Drive, Mt Werner Circle, and Apres Ski Way in the base area (similar area to the Gondola -Two zone district)
- Interested community and non-profit organizations

Recent Activities and Key Discussion Topics

Following the first round of community engagement completed last August, the consultant team drafted initial design concepts and 'big ideas'. They also completed research on 1) retail assessment of comparable ski towns and 2) transportation analysis based on 2019 GTC Data Collection Report. This information was presented in meetings and work session to the following groups:

- MAMP Advisory Committee: 09/09/2020, 11/24/2020
- Planning Commission: 12/14/20, 01/11/2021
- URAAC: 12/03/2020, 01/21/2021
- Stakeholder Group Meetings: GTC and Transportation, Economic/Business, City Staff, Steamboat Ski Resort/Altterra

Key discussion topics during these meetings included the following:

- **GTC** – Addressing pedestrian safety at the GTC is one of the plan's highest priorities. Various alternative designs for the GTC to improve safety, emergency access, operational efficiency, arrival experience, pedestrian circulation, and overall look and feel have been reviewed. There are substantial costs and tradeoffs that require consideration. The ski resort has been a partner in discussing alternative concepts.
- **Ski Time Square Drive** – Discussion has been focused on the future of Ski Time Square: spurring multi-use redevelopment and economic energy, understanding the ski resort's future plans for adjacent land, and timing public improvements to access, circulation, and streetscape.
- **Parking and Skier Drop-offs** – Key topics included: the implications for redeveloping old parking garages along Mt Werner Circle, consolidating parking and increasing it over time, future plans for the Meadows Lot, and locating designated skier drop-off areas.
- **Growth and Identity** – There are differing opinions on the scope of change desired in the Mountain Area and what character should be preserved.
- **Public Engagement** – The Planning Commission recommends making sure there is adequate public input not just stakeholder input. The URAAC recommends engaging the homeowners' associations that could be most impacted. The majority of people using the Mountain Area are visitors, yet the majority of input on the plan comes from the local community. It will be important to also get visitor input on the plan.

Based on these discussions, the project team refined the design concepts and potential solutions and prepared the outreach and engagement materials.

Project Completion Timeline

- **March** – Present outreach findings to the Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, and URAAC at meetings in late-March and to City Council through a written update.
- **April** –Based on direction from advisory groups, draft an implementation plan for discussion with the Advisory Committee and work sessions with Planning Commission and City Council.
- **May** – Prepare the draft final plan and make available on City website and in hard copy for review. Publicize the availability of the plan for review and comment. Present the draft plan to Advisory Committee, URAAC, Planning Commission, and City Council at regularly scheduled meetings.
- **June** – Present final plan to Planning Commission for a recommendation and City Council for adoption.