

# City Manager Report

## Transit Seasonal Housing Update

Transit's Housing Liaison, Administrative Assistant Kim Symalla, is working with a private company to secure 10 housing units for the winter season. Discussions are progressing well and Steamboat Springs Transit is optimistic that housing will be available this year, but contracts have yet to be executed. The Housing Liaison continues to reach out for other housing possibilities and opportunities.

## Temporary Covid Provisions

City Council has temporarily waived several code standards through November 2021 to assist retail and restaurant establishments through covid-19. These temporary provisions include:

- Waiver of development review for temporary structures
- Waiver of temporary sign permits
- Waiver of off-street parking requirements for restaurant and retail uses to accommodate expanded outdoor seating
- Allowance for outdoor seating in CK-1 zone district
- Public consumption of alcohol in certain public parks and rights-of-way

In addition, to further accommodate increased opportunities for outdoor seating, staff developed an expedited temporary permit and revocable license process that included greater flexibility in the use of the sidewalk and on-street parking areas to accommodate outdoor seating. We have received several inquiries regarding the continued use of on-street parking areas for seating, and staff is seeking Council direction on whether this increased flexibility is still appropriate. Staff can revoke or modify revocable licenses at any time. Such a change would not require repeal or modification of the temporary ordinance. Please let us know your thoughts.

## **Kudos**

Kudos to Parks and Trails Staff for flexing schedules and working overtime weekly to cover special events and parks landscape maintenance needs 7 days a week.

Kudos to Austin Cagaanan and Kyle Kilfoil. These two have been the definition of "Team Players" this summer. They have helped with adult rec programming outside of their full-time roles with the department continuing to work longer weeks to ensure all programs are staffed adequately. These programs would not be possible without the time and pride these guys take in their jobs within our department.

## **From the Departments**

### **Police Department**

#### Staffing

- Steamboat Springs Police Department (SSPD) is in the final stages of background checks for two police recruit candidates and one certified candidate. We hope to add them to the SSPD team soon.
- Officer Dunte Valrey is beginning phase II of III in the full-time officer program. The goal is to have him solo on the road by the end of September.
- The four seasonal community service officers have been a big help in staffing special events this summer. On the days they are not working special events, you will see them walking or riding their bike on the Core Trail, engaging in education and River Ranger style duties.
- SSPD is currently at 51% of its patrol overtime budget. We continue to try to be creative with OT usage while dealing with low staffing levels and the influx of necessary trainings.

- The July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and the July 10<sup>th</sup> weekend were our busiest weekends of the summer. Both weekends were relatively calm and went smoothly regarding police calls for service.
- Detective Jordan Cyphers left SSPD on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Jordan had been with the department since 2014 and he will be missed.

### Training

- In the month of June:
  - Officer Manuel Fajardo attended Leading Specialized Operations Training and Trauma Management Training
  - Sergeant Shane Musgrave attended Hostage Rescue Tactics Training
  - All patrol officers attended the monthly department firearms training
- In the month of July:
  - Sergeant Shane Musgrave is scheduled to attend Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents
  - Officer Jason Kasper is scheduled to attend Basic Crisis Negotiations

### Statistics

- Calls for Service:
  - In 2020, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>, there were 9,489 calls for service. In 2021, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>, there have been 6,886 calls for service.
  - This is a 27.40% decrease from last year
- Traffic Accidents:
  - In 2020, from January 1<sup>st</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>, there were 285 traffic accidents. In 2021, from January 1<sup>st</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>, there have been 280 traffic accidents.
  - This is a 1.75% decrease from last year.
- Domestic Violence (DV) Calls:
  - In 2020, from January 1<sup>st</sup> through July 12, there were 79 DV calls. In 2021, from January 1<sup>st</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>, there have been 53 DV calls.

- This is a 32.91% decrease from last year.

- Bear Calls:
  - In 2020, from January 1<sup>st</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>, there were 240 bear calls. In 2021, from January 1<sup>st</sup> through July 12<sup>th</sup>, there have been 214 bear calls.
  - This is a 10.83% decrease from last year.
- Bear Citations:
  - Year to date, 13 bear citations have been issued.
  - Year to date, 40 bear warnings have been issued.

### **Parks and Recreation**

#### Howelsen Ski and Rodeo

- The Rodeo Grounds hosted four days of Pro Rodeo over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. The weekend was very successful and the attendance was significantly higher than the same weekend in 2019.
- Staff has completed a comprehensive annual use agreement with Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club (SSWSC) that covers all summer and winter use of Howelsen Park and expectations for both entities.
- Parks and Recreation staff and SSWSC staff have come to an agreement on spending the remaining funds from SSWSC's 2019 capital contribution. Approximately \$30,000 remain and will be used to purchase a new snow gun.
- Staff have completed an agreement with SSWSC to construct a new Hill Size 8 jump at Howelsen Hill for year-round usage. This is an important jump for athlete progression for beginner jumpers.

#### Parks, Open Space, and Trails Division

- The Parks division continues to be severely understaffed. The division currently has 6 out of historically 22 seasonal positions filled and 5 out of 7 fulltime positions filled. Staff's top priority is to maintain our assets, however significant service reductions are expected. For example: lawns will be kept alive, however the grass will be cut less frequently.

- Current and future construction projects, in addition to reductions to the city's streetscapes budget, have resulted in service level reductions to all streetscape areas. These service level reductions can be classified into two categories: (1) areas receiving no maintenance (no irrigation and no mowing - all vegetation to be removed due to construction in 2021/2022) and (2) areas receiving minimal maintenance (scoria cleanup, limited irrigation and potential weed management which is contractor dependent). Areas receiving no maintenance due budget reductions and current and future construction projects are the streetscapes along Mt. Werner Road and the US40 medians from Old Town Hot Springs to McDonalds. Areas receiving minimal maintenance includes downtown/Yampa Street, the US40 medians from Pine Grove Road. to Walton Creek Road, and the Mt. Werner Circle medians and roundabouts.
- Staff has reached out to 21 landscape companies in Routt/Moffat Counties, 4 in Summit County, and 3 in Grand Junction. Many have declined due to not having the capacity to take on more work and being short staffed and the others have not returned phone calls to date. Some have noted additional safety concerns for their staff working in medians. Additionally, staff reached out to the Steamboat Temp Agency and they will contact us if they have workers but are struggling as well. Staff will continue to reach out to metro areas to see if anyone is interested and able to come to Steamboat.
- A commercial and voluntary closure was enacted on the Yampa River on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Per City Code, all commercial outfitters permitted by the city are suspended from operating and the public is strongly encouraged to avoid all river recreation to protect aquatic life. The criteria for a closure are based on flows, water temperature, and dissolved oxygen levels. The Yampa River experienced water temperatures greater than 75 degrees for two consecutive days (July 6<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup>) which exceeds the threshold for a mandatory river closure as outlined in the Yampa River Management Plan. City staff and Colorado Parks and Wildlife will continue to monitor and open the river once conditions have improved.
- New kiosks were installed at the Amethyst parking lot for Spring Creek Park with new maps reflecting recent additions to the Spring Creek Trail system. New trail signs were also installed for Spring Roll and Ditch Trail.
- The NPR rebuild project was completed in late June. The project was a collaboration made possible by a generous private donor, the Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund, the City of Steamboat Springs, and Routt County Riders with project work led by Conservation Trails. Additionally, two volunteer workdays were held in June hosted by Routt County Riders. Drought conditions made the last part of the build difficult but the late June rain helped to solidify the successful project.
- Staff worked with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to remove an elk carcass off the Bluffs trail to help deter bears from the area. Warning signs have been posted at all Emerald trailheads about increased bear and moose activity.
- The Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) received grant funding from the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund and the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District to fund a feasibility study for a river restoration project at the Walton Creek and Yampa River confluence. YVSC is engaging local stakeholders and working with staff to put together a request for proposals for the project.
- Staff continue to prep fields for local soccer, baseball, lacrosse and rugby teams in addition to city adult league play.
- Friends of the Yampa hosted the Yampa River Festival utilizing several riverside parks on June 4-5.
- Triple Crown Sports hosted: Mountain Magic Girls' Fastpitch Tournament and Camp June 7-9 with 75 players in camp and 20 college coaches and 48 teams in the June 10-13 tournament; the Mountain Magic #1 Baseball Tournament June 18-20 with 39 teams; and

the Mountain Magic #2 Baseball Tournament June 25-27 with 57 teams.

- STARS utilized city trails and West Lincoln Park on June 19<sup>th</sup> for the Biking the Boat event.
- Volleyball of the Rockies hosted a tournament on July 8-11 with 440 coed teams at Howelsen and Whistler Parks.
- Staff worked with Steamboat Creates to prepare West Lincoln Park for Art in the Park on July 10-11.
- The Cowpie Rugby Tournament at Ski Town Park had approximately 200 participants with 300 spectators expected on July 10-11.
- The Steamboat Soccer Academy hosted events at Emerald and Ski Town Parks July 6-9 and 11-14.
- The Mountain Soccer Tournament utilized Emerald, Whistler, Ski Town and Memorial Park fields with approximately 2,250 participants and 10,000 spectators expected July 15-19.
- Weekly special events continue with programmed use on city trails and parks with SSWSC mountain biking and skateboarding, STARS, Avid 4 Adventure Mountain Biking, Cycle Effect, and Team Flying Wheels BMX.
- Staff has met with Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss next steps with Steamboat Creates and the proposed amphitheater. Staff will be working with Steamboat Creates and providing updates to Parks and Recreation Commission as time allows.
- As a result of increased interest in commercial recreation (tours, lessons, races) on Emerald Mountain the Parks and Recreation Commission is beginning a community conversation on what commercial uses should be permitted and how they should be managed.
- Staff was previously directed by City Council to discuss Electric Toys and their use in Steamboat. Previous updates to City Council noted their use is currently not legal on any City streets or trails. Due to staff capacity, staff is requesting permission to defer this discussion and monitor local and national

trends and legal discussions about these types of toys.

### Adult Sports

- Summer adult recreation leagues are at the midway point of the season. Leagues and enrollment for the summer season include: Coed Soccer (8 teams), Coed 4v4 and 2v2 Sand Volleyball (65 Teams), Coed Softball (36 teams) and, Adult Summer hockey (12-14 teams).
- The Howelsen Ice Arena, in collaboration with the Steamboat Spring's Curling Club and Denver Curling Club, will be hosting a 7-week curling league beginning on July 11<sup>th</sup>. We currently have 14 teams registered to participate in the newest adult rec league opportunity.



### Youth Programs

- Session 1 youth programming registration will open on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Programs will not be opening at full capacity due to staffing shortages. We are actively seeking additional staff members.
- Session 1 A.S.S.E.T Clubs will include: hockey, Learn to Skate, Molly Manners, and Excel Gymnastics.
- Session 1 Middle School activities will include: golf, biking/bike repair, fitness, grass sticks poles, pottery, and bowling.
- Senior programming enrollment has been strong with many trips full or close to full.

### Marketing and Events

- Staff has hosted two successful Town Challenge MTB Series races so far this summer. The third race of the summer will take place at Mt. Werner/Steamboat Resort on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Staff hosted a fun and successful Yampa River Clean-Up event in conjunction with Friends of the Yampa on July 10<sup>th</sup> at Little Toots Park. Nearly 100 volunteers came out to help clean 15 stretches of the Yampa River from the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area to the Steamboat KOA Campground, plus several other tributaries. Volunteers were treated to lunch from Cruiser's post event. Staff is working to inventory the items that were collected and will share this information once finalized.



- Initial planning has begun for Howelsen Hill winter advertising and marketing initiatives including the new snow tubing operation and Ski Free Sundays.
- Staff is working with the VF Corporation and Smartwool to develop new interpretive signage for Howelsen Hill that highlights the history of the Barrow's chairlift, Smartwool's involvement in our community, and their generous gift in support of the new Barrows chairlift.
- Over the past 30 days, the Parks and Recreation Facebook page saw increases in page views, page likes and post reach over the previous 30-day period. The posts that saw the most reach over the past 30 days included: Peyton Manning – Go with a Pro (17.1k), Emerald Mountain Trail Closure – Wildlife Activity (11.5k), Curling League Registration (2.3k), and Use a Commercial Operator – Tubing the Yampa (1.3k).

#### Howelsen Ice Arena

- Bumper Car operations are up and running again with public skate and bumper car session available throughout the week.
- Staff is busy preparing the building for the upcoming expansion project expected to

begin in mid-August. Adjustments to offices and lobby operations are planned and the rink is expected to remain open throughout the project.

#### Parks Projects

- Howelsen Ice Arena Expansion Project: staff is working with Saunder Heath on pre-construction activities, RFI's, and material submittals. The construction team is targeting August 16<sup>th</sup> as an official start date, but things are moving well to accelerate the start date forward if the subcontractor buyout and procurement process keep going better than anticipated. Construction should be completed in the first quarter of 2022.
- Howelsen Hill Chair Lift Installation Project: SkyTrac, the lift manufacturer/installer, continues to work on concrete foundations and excavations for the tower foundations. GSI, the geo-stabilization contractor is onsite drilling micro-piles and soil nails for the tower foundations. The chair lift installation project is on schedule to be completed in time for the 2021-2022 ski season.
- US40 Median Landscaping Improvements Project: staff is signing a construction contract with Duckels Construction but will postpone all the construction work to the 2022 construction season. Duckels has agreed to hold the bid pricing and perform all the work in the second year per the city's request to reduce 2021 traffic impacts on US40.
- Howelsen Hill Tubing Project: the city has just finalized the contract with AECOM for the Sulfur Cave mapping per City Council directive. AECOM will be onsite in the next few weeks to perform cave mapping work. Final engineering of the lift alignment has been paused since the cave mapping/Geotech findings became a prerequisite of the lift alignment engineering. This project pause has created some ripple effects for other work scopes for

the project. The ability to finalize the electrical engineering, electrical contractor bidding, electrical infrastructure installation, and slope preparation has all been paused as staff waits for approval on the desired lift alignment. The identified delays may jeopardize the completion of the lift installation for the 2021-2022 tubing season.

- Yampa River Channel Restoration and Access: staff has issued a Notice of Award to a river contractor for the river project. Construction is anticipated to start September 2021. The project will have a 5-7 week duration.
- Parks Shop Storage Building: Pinnacle building will be starting installation mid-August. The build is estimated to take three weeks for the structure installation. The concrete contractor will follow with the needed drainage improvements to make them perform as designed. All work should be completed to allow staff to occupy the building prior to winter 2021.
- Core Trail Pedestrian Lighting Project: Parks staff is working on the 100% plan set that will include the tunnel and bridge portion that Steamboat Creates is offering as an art installation. This project is currently being looked at as a part of a larger CDOT Revitalize Mainstreet grant. This current direction would include this Parks project and several from Public Works. More information to come on this grant opportunity in the future. Construction for this project will be delayed to the 2022 construction season.

#### Botanic Park

- The Botanic Park is welcoming many visitors, school groups, and day camps.
- Programs and events for the season include: Guided Walking Tours, Yoga in the Park, Music on the Green, Lulie's Wildflowers and Watercolors, PikNik Theatre, the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra, Storytime, Community Cultivation, Junior Master Gardeners, and the temporary exhibit "Frida Kahlo's Garden" a live garden installation.

- Work on the Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden renovation begins this week.
- Phase 2 of Dorothy's Garden renovations are underway.
- Passport Through the Botanic Park was a success with fundraising exceeding budget.

#### Haymaker Golf Course

- Haymaker continues to see a major increase in rounds and revenue due to more visitor traffic and new season pass holders. Season pass sales are up 30% and total sales are up 35% through the month of June.
- Haymaker continues to search for staff to help in the golf shop through the end of the season due to the increase in demand.
- All instruction leagues have been incredibly successful this year. We have brought on new instruction staff for all group clinics which has helped us keep up with demand. It has become apparent that there is a need for an expanded practice area due to increased demand for both larger clinic sizes and practice areas throughout the day. Staff is working on options for this.
- We recently completed the annual Glow Ball event on July 9<sup>th</sup>. This was a great event with a full field and an impromptu Balloon Glow prior to tee off. The Balloon Glow was enjoyed by tournament participants and restaurant guests.
- Water levels in the Enterprise Ditch have begun to drop dramatically. Water from the Catamount Pipeline will begin to offset the natural decline through July and August. Staff has been working to identify ways to utilize water more efficiently. With the recent installation of additional adjustable arc sprinkler heads, we have been able to reduce overuse and create more efficient water placement. To make further improvements to the silvery thread moss clusters on greens a new form of aerification using mini 3/8" tines will begin on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Planning

- Development Review: there are currently 72 projects in the development review process; 22 are under review, and 50 are waiting for applicant response. Six projects are currently late in receiving DRT review comments, and DRT deadlines remain extended by one week.
- Floodplain Management: the city's annual Community Rating System Recertification has been completed. The review of the city's construction certificates resulted in a correctness rate of 100%.
- Mountain Area Master Plan (MAMP): staff is reviewing a complete draft of the MAMP and will be providing comments to the consultant team within the next week.
- CityView: staff validation of CityView configuration is complete, and we are currently in the User Acceptance Testing period. Intensive End User Training is scheduled for July 28-August 13, and a Go Live date is set for August 16<sup>th</sup>. City staff that will be involved in the training include the entire Planning staff and numerous other employees from Engineering, Utilities, Fire, Legal, Streets, Finance, Clerks, Parks and Recreation, and Police. We anticipate limited availability during this time, and we anticipate delays in development review as well as responding to public and applicant inquiries. We will be communicating directly with individual applicants to keep them updated on the status of their projects as we near our Go Live date.
- Short-Term Rental Compliance Services: Granicus was selected as the vendor for short-term rental compliance services. We are working through the contracting process, and once it is finalized, we will share the implementation schedule with City Council.
- Code Compliance: a total of 98 code enforcement cases have been opened to date in 2021. There are 60 open cases pending resolution. In addition, 90 noxious weed enforcement cases have been opened this year.

## Public Works

### Wastewater

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 73 million gallons of wastewater in the month of June. This is down 9% from June 2020 when 80 million gallons of wastewater was treated.

### Engineering

- As of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 244 development applications have been submitted with a review due date in the calendar year. 8 reviews are currently in queue. Of the completed reviews, 79% met the internal review deadline and 98% met the external review deadline.
- The Mt. Werner Road/Steamboat Boulevard Roundabout project remains on schedule. Mount Werner Road, albeit still a construction site, is now open to traffic. The week prior to reopening Mt. Werner Road, Walton Creek Road experienced its highest traffic volumes and congestion that led to several complaints being received through the Engineering Office. Staff were able to work with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to make some improvements to the Walton Creek Road/US40 intersection that became more apparent due to the detour.
- Duckels Construction continues to work on the US40 West Sidewalk project. During the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>, work will begin to occur on both sides of the highway. Shoulder closures will continue with periodic single lane closures. Two-way traffic will be maintained throughout the project. Access to adjacent businesses will remain open throughout the duration of the project.
- Downhill Drive/US40 Intersection design efforts are entering an important phase. 30% design is complete, and staff are meeting with property owners adjacent to the intersection. A public open house will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm at the Community Center to allow for public feedback. A progress design meeting is scheduled with CDOT the week following the public open house.

- Training for the new CityView development review tracking software will begin in late July through mid-August. This will reduce Engineering capacity during that timeframe and may lead to a temporary reduction in service levels in the lead up to implementation of the much-anticipated process improvement.

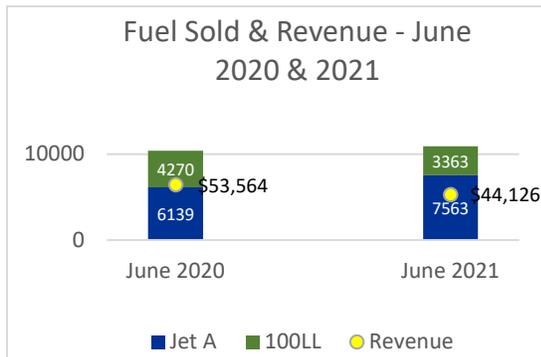
Water and Sewer

- Construction continues on the West Area Water Tank. Unfortunately, continued and extended delays on the delivery of materials and equipment are starting to result in some minor delays in the construction schedule. At this time, the construction completion date of November 1<sup>st</sup> remains unchanged but continued delays are likely to push the completion date.
- The rate study consultant is currently working through the city’s utility data requested for the 2021 utility rate study; the consultant will go over the results of their review of the provided data on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at a financial planning workshop.

- Thank you to the city’s IT department for installing two new high-resolution cameras that are linked to the Airport website for pilots to view the runway conditions in real-time. This will provide increased safety and customer service, especially during inclement weather.
- Staff is in the final stages of establishing a contract with L3/ Harris and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for installation of an Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) system that will eventually replace the existing Wide Area Multilateration surveillance system sponsored by the FAA at the Airport.
- The Airport continues to play a key role in firefighting efforts for both the Muddy Slide and the Morgan Creek fires. It is being used as a helicopter base for both fires, and approximately 30 personnel are stationed at the Airport in support of the operations. See photo below.



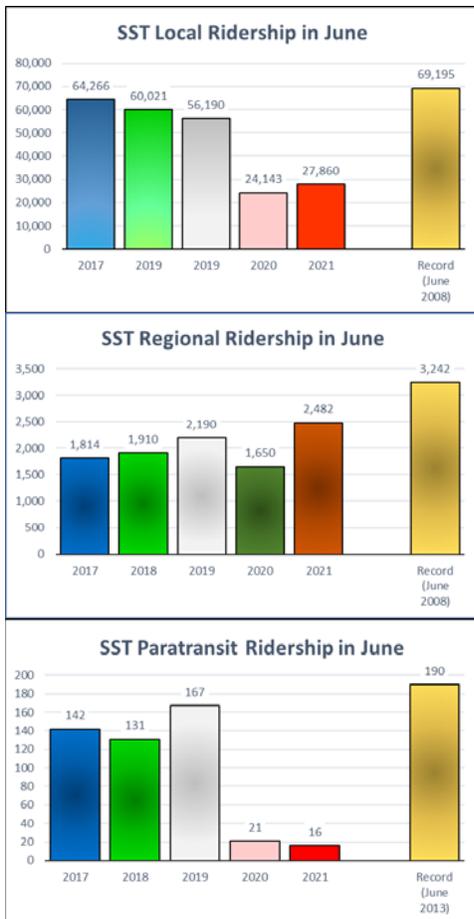
Airport



Transit

- Through the month of June, Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) carried 30,358 passengers, which is up 2% from June 2020 when SST carried 25,814 passengers.
- Summer season ridership is up 19% (10,790) over the same period last summer. Year to date, SST ridership is down 39% (-209,792).
- Cost per passenger this summer is down 23%. This year’s average cost per passenger is \$7.43 compared to \$9.61 last summer. \$7.43 is a lower cost per passenger than at any point last summer (\$7.58).
- SST is operating at 94% on time basis with 6% of the buses arriving late.

- SST has completed the installation of new destination signs and automatic voice announcement systems in 7 buses. All hybrid buses now have this technology which allows all stops to be automatically announced in English and Spanish. They are GPS triggered and greatly improve both the safety of the system by allowing the drivers to focus on driving and improved communication with our customers.
- SST is about halfway finished with the installation of solar powered lights in the bus shelters. The lights are installed at a majority of the stops along US40 and they really look great.



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