

Parks & Recreation

City of Missoula • 600 Cregg Lane • 721-PARK

To: Missoula Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
From: Ryan Applegate, Ashley Brittner Wells, Donna Gaukler, Parks & Recreation Department on behalf of and in support of Working Group
Date: February 8, 2021
RE: **Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity (CCRC) Working Group Recommendation to the Missoula Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Nov 4, 2021**

On November 4, after careful deliberation, the Working Group arrived at consensus agreement to the recommendation below and requested their recommendation be advanced to the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board per the CCRC Working Group Charter.

The Building:

We believe the Conceptual Design as presented by MMW Architects and NAC reflects the needs and values of Missoula residents as expressed by the public throughout the design process. The design and placement of the facility within McCormick Park works well with the natural and built environment as well as considering physical access to the facility for all residents. The Working Group does have concerns about the cost burden for residents who may be on fixed incomes and requests that the City and Friends of the Community Center mitigate a portion of the costs through fundraising and grants.

Programs/Services – Access and Potential:

The Working Group believes the CCRC as designed has significant potential to host a wide variety of programs and services that are needed by our community and its residents. The conceptual design for CCRC meets the Working Group's guiding principles and has the potential of transforming how the needs of Missoula residents are met, especially for those who in the past have been excluded or marginalized (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Individuals with disabilities, aging populations, lower income, etc.). We view the CCRC as a place to celebrate community and actively grow together in a healthy environment where all are engaged. A place where we can heal and unite. The Center will support and facilitate of recreation and creativity, renewal, and respite, and be a hub for accessing community support resources and congregate meals. CCRC will also be a place of safety comfort in times of emergency. The CCRC will have clean

indoor air, use sustainable practices and materials, and build a more resilient and inclusive Missoula, which is especially vital now that Missoula is growing and diversifying so quickly.

The Working Group recognizes that appropriate funds must be allocated to successfully operate the CCRC to fully realize its potential. Because of the significant public benefit, the Center should integrate a pricing structure that prioritizes affordability for all types of uses and users, in addition to having an extremely robust scholarship program without barriers to apply and access. The Center should be subsidized by all taxpayers to a level that allows every resident the ability to participate fully in programs and utilize and enjoy the spaces within. Pricing for programs or space cannot be a barrier to access. If supported in a way that allows the Center to reach its full potential, it will help all our residents discover new interests and make new friends, increasing our physical, social, and emotional health. It will foster a rich community of future instructors, performing artists, and community leaders. The CCRC will inspire our residents today and provide hope and direction for tomorrow.

Attachments: Working Group Applicant Information Packet
Working Group additional information
CCRC Summary of Outreach and Process
CCRC Engage Missoula link: