

AGENDA ITEM #3.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION FORM

FROM: Gary Suiter, City Manager

DATE: April 11, 2017

ITEM: Howelsen Hill Update.

DIRECTION
 INFORMATION
 ORDINANCE
 MOTION
 RESOLUTION

I. REQUEST/ISSUE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of this presentation is to provide council with an update on the many facets of Howelsen Hill projects. In all, there are four major components to this efforts, including:

1. Creating a Master Site Plan and vision for the future of Howelsen Hill, including Nordic, Summer, Alpine and Jumping
2. JUA renegotiation
3. Soils Study
4. RFP for operations

Attachment 1 provides a more complete list of these components. A brief update on each is provided below.

1. Creating a Master Site Plan and vision for the future of Howelsen Hill, including Nordic, Summer, Alpine and Jumping

City staff has kicked off the Howelsen Hill Site Master Plan process. The first phase involves compiling previous planning efforts that relate to Howelsen Hill, as well as soliciting input from stakeholders. Initial stakeholder meetings were held the week of March 6 and continue through roughly April 13 (over 15 groups have already attended

these meetings). Staff continues to interview stakeholder groups, and questions range from what people value about the hill to what their 10-year vision for the site is. Subsequent phases will include holding an open house, currently planned for April 19th, and more public involvement through the Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff will continue to evaluate previous planning efforts, deferred maintenance, and financial models that will assist in creating a final draft master plan. Once soil studies have been completed, staff will introduce the plan to City Council, currently planned to be completed by July of this year.

2. JUA renegotiation

Discussions have been tabled for the time being, until more information becomes available through the RFP discussions and soils report.

3. Soils Study

As you know, Howelsen Hill is again sliding this spring. The soils engineers have been up to read the instruments and observe the activity. A report is due after summer readings have been taken.

4. RFP for operations

The first meeting is scheduled for April 13. John Overstreet, Alan Lind and I will be meeting with Rob Perlman, Jim Schneider and other Ski Corp staff to listen to their ideas and discuss more details of their proposal.

II. ALTERNATIVES:

N/a; information only.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/a; information only.

IV. FISCAL IMPACTS:

Proposed Expenditure: tbd

Funding Sources: tbd

V. LEGAL ISSUES:

None at this time.

VI. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

There are potential conflicts among the four components listed above. For example, if Ski Corp were to proceed with winter operations, that may conflict with JUA negotiations.

Soil instability is a significant environmental concern that affects all components.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Howelsen Hill Discussion Items list

Attachment #1.

Howelsen Hill Discussion Items

Council Goal – Establish HH vision and renegotiate the JUA

- Nordic
- Alpine
- Summer
- Jumping

Soils Report Potential Impacts

- Snowmaking
- Lift stabilization and lift alignment
- Alpine Slide agreement
- Capital investment (e.g. new lifts; building improvements; vision implementation)
- Soils stabilization
- Jump Stabilization

HH Site Master Plan

- Capital Investment
- Ongoing operations
- New Programs
- Funding Strategy: Non-profits; JUA; new tax

JUA

- Strategies/options for moving forward

Ski Area RFP

- Operational models evaluated
- Capital investment needs identified
- Funding strategy determined
- JUA negotiations
- Contract terms
- Unknown impacts