
CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: February 21, 2019
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Jennifer Smith, Leisure Services Manager
CC: Jerene Watson, Interim City Manager; Department Directors
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON EFFORTS TO SECURE A COMMUNITY CENTER IN RESPONSE TO COUNCILMEMBERS SOTO AND GRIJALVA

The report is in response to a request for information from Councilmembers Grijalva, Lindemann and Soto regarding efforts to acquire a community center for Douglas.

DISCUSSION:

Efforts to obtain a community center have been ongoing for the past year. City staff has explored various avenues to obtain a facility that meets the needs of the community. This includes looking at potential sites for a center, pursuing grant funding, and seeking strategic partnerships interested in helping Douglas acquire a community center.

In the August regular meeting, Mayor and Council unanimously approved the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for a community center for FY 2018.

In October, a proposal to purchase the former Bushmaster's building for the purpose of a community center was brought forth to Mayor and Council. The agenda item was tabled indefinitely.

Last year, City Manager directed city staff to make contact with the Arizona National Guard regarding the armory located at Veterans Memorial Park. At the beginning of July, city administration and staff had an initial discussion with Lt. Colonel Matthew Stubbs and Jim Grayson of the Arizona National Guard in reference to utilizing the armory for a community center. Col. Stubbs encouraged staff to make contact with the City of Yuma to tour their Readiness and Community Center as they are interested in a similar partnership with the City of Douglas.

In October, Douglas City Manager and Yuma City Manager met to review contracts and budgeting details. In November, Leisure Services staff toured the facility with Yuma staff and was provided with information on programs, staffing, and best practices.

The layout of the Yuma Readiness and Community Center is similar to the layout of the Douglas facility. The City of Yuma and the National Guard coordinate use of the facility in advance with the National Guard having priority. When not in use by the National Guard, the facility is easily transformed into a place for the community. The color-coded striping on the main drill floor allows for various activities to take place. Portable equipment allows an easy transition to various activities including Pickleball, basketball, archery, volleyball, and more. The classrooms facilitate a wide array of programming for youth, teens, adults, and seniors.

After touring the Yuma Readiness and Community, staff recognizes the possibility to implement the same partnership in Douglas.

Discussions for a partnership with the Arizona National Guard for a Readiness and Community Center for Douglas are ongoing. The next teleconference is pending the availability of the Arizona National Guard. If some partnership seems to be a near possibility, staff will come to make a formal presentation to the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION:

This report is for information only.