

CITY OF NEW MEADOWS MAYOR'S REPORT

May 8, 2023

Well, the sun came out and the work has begun! There are multiple projects and events being planned. City Hall will do its best to keep you informed as we move forward with all that is taking place in our community.

Kyla and I met with David McKnight of Airbridge and Ramon Hobdey-Sanchez (State Broadband Program Manager). We discussed upcoming funding for the unserved and underserved and the current lack of internet service, especially in outlying areas. We discussed the challenges we are facing in getting wireless broadband installed in our community. I was given ideas on how to reach out to those who are working on this at the State level to get New Meadows represented well.

The County has emptied out the recycle center and the next step is to get an architect to tell us what we can do with the building. We will be getting bids on the cost of the architect and the Blue Cross Foundation has graciously offered to help fund that portion of the project. They also gave some great ideas on programs that can help to make this project a reality.

Once the architect gives us ideas, I would like to hold an event at the Recycle Center to generate interest and comment on this incredible community project. I have already asked YAC to attend and will be inviting Ignite Idaho, and other local organizations who work with youth to be there. Out of this, I will be developing the Mayor's Youth Council.

Kyla, Ivan, Garrett and I spent some time last week marking the area where the skate park will be located so the process of designing a plan can continue. I visited with JoBeth Mehen about the possibility of naming the park as a memorial to Rory and Sara and she was delighted with the prospect. We need to decide on that name at the meeting so we can move forward with signage at the project and a ground breaking ceremony.

I met with Mike Howard, Keith Richards and Garrett St. Pierre at the bike track being developed behind the school parking lot/football field. The school district will be discussing this project at their meeting Tuesday with the idea of leasing the ground to the city so we can include the bike track as part of our parks and recreation department. This is the way other communities have developed recreation opportunities on school property. An MOU and lease details will be presented at the next city council meeting if the School District decides that is the direction they want to go.

Kyla and I met with Kristine and Tim from Mountain Waterworks to discuss funding of the water project, budget and where we are to date. At that meeting, we asked Kristine to look into the availability of additional funds since there are many unknown variables still in the project. We also discussed looking into stormwater funds that might be available to update

our plan. We will be holding a meeting to discuss the current budget of the water project each month before we present those numbers to the city council.

We have run into an issue with the proposed street lamp project. It seems the conduit situation is not as we thought. The cost to connect power to each corner will be more than we anticipated, but we will be working with Idaho Power to find out next steps and get an idea of how to move forward.

The local Youth Advocacy Coalition (YAC) has agreed to help with some temporary playground equipment in the park. We are looking at blowup bounce houses, slides, etc. which will be donated for specific periods of time in the park. I would like to encourage use of the park even though there will be construction activities on the west end.

I have been working with the Community Center, Food Bank and Library to put together a summer lunch program for the children. I am requesting that the funding for this project be run through the MV Community Foundation, but would like to allow donations for the project and information regarding the project to be available at City Hall.

Bronwen Baker has approached me about a Community Fridge project she has been working on. The Community Fridge concept is that food and some pantry items would be made available to anyone needing them on an ongoing basis. A possible location for this project would be the front of the old ambulance building with the roll up doors being to be opened at scheduled times. The footprint would be small enough and secure enough to allow for the storage the city needs in the building. This is not a project that has to be manned so volunteers would only be needed for cleaning and stocking. I have asked Bronwen to do a survey, first, to determine if this is something that will be beneficial to our community. She is preparing a survey and once the results are in, we will have more discussion with City Council on possible involvement in this project.

I would like to continue to provide opportunities for our community to come together and continue to heal and grow together. The ongoing court case regarding the events at the Hartland Inn last year reminds us again of the great loss we have experienced. As leaders in our community, we can find ways to bring hope and encourage dialogue on ways we can work together to build a healthy, hope-filled community.

Be someone's strength. Be someone's inspiration. Be someone's reason to never give up.