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MISSOULA PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release through March 29, 2021

Residents invited to apply for community center working group

Missoula Parks and Recreation invites residents to apply for a working group to develop a master plan for a new community center in McCormick Park. The proposed Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity would be constructed as an addition to Currents Aquatics Center and would host recreational and social programs for all ages, income and ability levels.

Residents are encouraged to apply for the working group or learn more about the project at www.engagemissoula.com; the [working group application](#) deadline is March 29.

For decades, Missoulians have identified the need for indoor recreation space to provide opportunities to lead a healthy lifestyle and come together as a community regardless of the season. The McCormick Park Master Plan, adopted by the City in 2003, included a community center in Phase 2 of park development.

The Master Plan for the Currents Center will represent the community's vision for the project and set a course for future development as funding becomes available. A comprehensive master plan also allows the City to seek funding for the project via public and private partnerships, state and federal grants, developer impact fees and the City budget.

The Currents Center Working Group will meet approximately four times between April and December of this year and collaborate with residents, stakeholders, the selected design consulting firm and the project's Technical Group and Steering Team to develop the conceptual master plan.

Residents will have ample opportunity to participate in the planning process, including an on-going public opinion survey at engagemissoula.com. A series of public open houses are planned for later this spring and next fall to discuss the master plan and solicit comment. When the draft conceptual master plan is completed later this year, Parks and Recreation will present it at several public meetings with opportunities for comment.

Learn more about the project and apply for the Working Group at www.engagemissoula.com. The [Engage Missoula](#) site also features a public opinion survey, a place to ask questions about the project, and a link to sign up for project updates. Call 721-PARK (7275) for more information.

CURRENTS CENTER FOR RECREATION AND CREATIVITY



MARCH, 2021

WORKING GROUP APPLICANT INFORMATION • **APPLY BY MARCH 29, 2021**

**OUR COMMUNITY HUB SUPPORTING SOCIAL,
EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.**

WWW.ENGAGEMISSOULA.COM

WWW.MISSOULACOMMUNITYCENTER.ORG



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WORKING GROUP APPLICANT INFORMATION • APPLY BY MARCH 29 • WWW.MISSOULAPARKS.ORG

MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The City of Missoula, in cooperation with community members, is undertaking a public process to complete the master plan for a community center at McCormick Park. The Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity is part of the McCormick Park Master Plan adopted by the City in 2003.

Currents Aquatics Center, the first phase of the community center, opened in 2006. Designed to extend to the north of the Currents Aquatics Center, the community center's second phase will offer additional recreational facilities. More on the history and scope of the Center is available at missoulacommunitycenter.org and engagemissoula.com.

Missoula Parks and Recreation, with support of the Friends of Missoula Community Center (a citizen advocacy group), has continued efforts toward this important community goal as identified in 2000. A public process to advance the community center design with extensive public input has been developed.

The Missoula Parks and Recreation Board adopted the process and timeline at their March 9, 2021 meeting. Parks and Recreation will present a master plan concept and recommendations on phasing and funding to the City Council in late 2021. The City reserves the right to adapt and refine the Working Group's, citizens', and consultants' plans and recommendations as needed.

Working Group Role and Products

The Working Group's approximately 15 members will be selected based on criteria developed by the Steering Committee and approved by the Parks and Recreation Board. The Group will make recommendations to the City and its design consultant on community center planning, outreach, and schematic design. Recommendations shall incorporate available information as well as additional information provided and gathered throughout the planning process.

Planning Process Product/Outcome

The final product of the planning process is a conceptual master plan prepared by the design consultant. The master plan will generally show the type, size, location, and spatial relationships of interior spaces, including essential amenities. Additional considerations will include support facilities, circulation throughout, and connections to the site. The plan will also include a report detailing implementation strategies to realize the adopted vision.

Working Group Selection Criteria

The following criteria are vital for the development of a successful center that benefits the entire community:

1. Demonstrate an ability to engage with others and bring additional information back to the working group by conducting interviews and collecting opinions representing a broad cross-section of residents and organizations
2. Willingness to approach the process with an open mind and demonstrate a solutions-oriented ability to compromise/collaborate with others
3. Ability to identify and develop thoughtful questions for the Technical and Steering Groups' responses, including design consultants
4. Ability to be inclusive, neutral, and visionary
5. Embrace a community perspective

Working Group Responsibilities

1. Review and synthesize supporting information about the land and its surroundings, current and future recreational needs, trends, estimated costs, etc., as provided by the Steering Committee and Technical Group.
2. Assist in community outreach to gain additional insight regarding potential uses and requirements to support a given use.
3. Make recommendations regarding the uses, spaces, and amenities that will serve our community best.
4. Make recommendations on the type, size, location, and spatial relationships of facilities and circulation throughout and connecting to the site. Circulation is defined as serving both motorized and non-motorized modes and includes pedestrian, bicycle, motor vehicle access, transit, service vehicle and maintenance access.
5. Consider and offer recommendations to realize community goals as necessary.
6. Explore useful strategies for realizing the final desired design, including funding mechanisms and methods for obtaining these funds.
7. Make recommendations to the City regarding the preferred schematic design, or master plan, for the Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity.

Working Group Representation

The Working Group will consist of at least one community representative from the groups, organizations or interests listed below, up to 15 members. The Working Group shall also include at-large members who do not represent any of these particular groups or interests.

- Neighborhood Councils and Community Forum (2)
- Youth and adult sports (2)
- Youth and adult active arts, dance, music (2)
- Disability-focused (1)
- Higher Education (1)
- Public Education (1)
- Cultural heritage and historic preservation (1)
- Fundraising and financial (1)
- Business (1)
- At-large (3) - a broad representation of community demographics

The Working Group will be supported by the Steering Committee, Design Team, and the Technical Group.

The Currents Community Center Working Group is an opportunity to make a difference, build community and improve Missoula's quality of life.

Time Commitment

The Working Group will meet approximately four times via Zoom unless both COVID and weather conditions allow for in-person options. Each meeting will last approximately 2.5 to 3 hours. Meeting times will be weekday evenings (Tues, Wed or Thurs) beginning at 6 or 6:30 p.m., with a short break scheduled near the mid-point of the meeting.

The first meeting will be on April 29, 6–9 p.m. Each session will have required homework, such as interviewing others, site visits, reviewing documents, maps and plans, etc.

In addition, there will be 2-3 public meetings that you may want to attend. Working Group meetings should conclude in late October of 2021.

The Group will not meet between June 25 and September 6.

2021 PLANNING PROCESS TIMELINE

The timeline for the planning process will continue to evolve as the planning process moves forward.

March – mid-June: Working Group Meetings 1 and 2

- Prepare for public process and engagement.
- Design Consultant Agreement executed.
- Working group selected and begins meeting.
- Stakeholder outreach, surveys, open house, and focus group meetings (Late-April through May).

Late June – mid-August

- Design Consultant prepares draft plan based on input from the public, the Working Group and Technical Group.

September – November: Working Group Meetings 3 and 4

- Working Group reviews the draft plan, including strategies for realizing the project.
- Design Consultant finalizes proposed design and projected costs.
- Host public open house(s) to review the final draft schematic design or master plan.
- Design Consultant, Working Group, and Steering Committee present the final plan and cost/phasing report to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, City Council and additional committees or boards as needed.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT PLANNING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will guide and support the Working Group throughout the process. It will include City staff, Friends of the Missoula Community Center, design consultants and individuals with expertise in public process and equity and inclusion.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders represent individuals or organizations interested in an activity that a community center could potentially host. Stakeholders may advocate for their particular activity and supply detailed information on the type of use, use assumptions (physical space and amenities), time and period of use, estimated participation, and considerations related to cost/revenue.

Essential stakeholders will represent the diverse Missoula community, including BIPOC and LGBTQ+ and residents of all ages and socio-economic statuses. Stakeholders will include education and social service providers, members of sports organizations, and the arts community, including dance, music, and theater.

The Steering Committee and Working Group will assist in identifying stakeholders and collecting information. Stakeholder focus group meetings will help inform the Working Group.

Technical Group

The Technical Group will include individuals with specific expertise related to the project and will provide background information on matters such as:

- Existing site conditions
- Current and projected uses
- Infrastructure costs
- Development and permitting requirements

The Group will include City staff and individuals with expertise in community planning and development, finance, public works, transportation, equity and inclusion, public health, ADA and accessibility, energy and climate, and other areas as required.

Public Process Group

In addition to the Working Group, Steering Committee, Stakeholders, and Technical Group, a Public Process Group will remain informed and may provide additional guidance throughout the project as needed. Members may include City administration and Council, representatives of the business community, non-profit organizations, and members of community forums and neighborhood councils.

INITIAL PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS

1. The plan's scope should be open to all types of creativity, recreation and wellness, but the final plan must be economically feasible.
2. Development will be completed in a single-phase addition to the existing Currents Aquatics Center.
3. Recognizing there is limited space and multiple demands for that space, the master plan will make every effort to provide multi-use spaces for diverse activities.
4. McCormick Park is a community asset for public enjoyment and benefit and should function this way, both visually and practically.
5. The context of the site, particularly the adjacency of the Clark Fork River, should inform the design. Both indoor and adjacent outdoor facilities may be considered.
6. Ongoing maintenance costs and support systems are important factors.
7. The facility will serve a multigenerational population.
8. The design concept and plan narrative should address parking, restrooms, concessions, maintenance and storage facilities.
9. All facilities should exceed the requirements of the ADA. The master plan should encourage participation and enjoyment by the broadest possible community spectrum—socially, economically, and physically.
10. The plan will include passive recreation opportunities such as strolling, casual gatherings, enjoying the surrounding views, and more.
11. The Currents Center for Recreation and Creativity shall be sustainable and meet climate-related goals to the extent possible.
12. The facility and amenity design, along with programs/services provided, must be through a lens of equity and access for all.

Thank you for your interest. Apply online at www.missoulaparks.org by March 29, 2021.