

Questions about the proposed City Hall/Library Complex

- **Will the proposed City Hall Complex take over Cole Park?** No. The proposed location will not enter Cole Park, but as a direct result of building a new complex, Cole Park will receive many needed upgrades in the electrical and lighting systems, add additional public parking spaces, and have year round heated restrooms.
- **Is it too cluttered to build in that location?** The site will actually open up more than it is currently. The site is staked off and available for public inspection at any time.
- **Will the festivals such as Early Iron be phased out from using Cole Park?** No. The City has no intention of phasing out any of our wonderful festivals. Maintaining Cole Park as our premier event park is part of the reason to make significant investments in its infrastructure.
- **Will there still be adequate parking for Cole Park and Events?** Actually, the City will be increasing the number of legal parking spaces by about 15 spaces.
- **Why not take this to a vote?** Based on information from our bond investment bankers, it appears we would need to ask for a tax in order to go to a vote. Since we do not need an additional tax, the Certificate of Participation route (essentially a lease purchase) seems to make sense. It also allows us to build now during a competitive building cycle. A vote can only be held at a November election.
- **How can we afford to build a new complex?** By restructuring current city expenses and with planned savings in energy/communications/leases we can build now within our current budget while commercial building rates are at a historic low. We will not require any additional sales tax or property taxes to accomplish this.
- **Will street funding suffer?** Our current budget for streets is at an all time high! We have plans to continue to fund streets and even to grow this budget. Maintaining this funding has been a priority of the City Council.
- **What about Public Restrooms for the park?** The new City complex will include year round heated bathrooms directly accessible from Cole Park without entering the City Hall proper. Additionally proper public ADA restrooms will be available in the lobby of the new complex.
- **What about future expansion?** The current design plans included future expansion options as well as additional parking plans. Future expansion on this site on in the general area would likely include going up and not out. Since we don't have a crystal ball, we can't determine exactly what the needs will be in the future nor can we bind a future City Council.
- **What about the trees?** The city is well aware of the need to keep as many trees as possible. We are currently inspecting dead and dying trees for replacement. Any trees that can be cost-effectively moved will be moved, although it is true that not every tree can be saved.
- **Couldn't we simply fix City Hall with an elevator?** While adding an elevator would assist the public to enter the City Council Chambers, it would not address the numerous ADA issues facing the City. It also would not address public restrooms, library size issues, aging electrical systems, inefficient heating/cooling, commercial lease of the police department space, needs of the Fire Department to accommodate larger trucks, drainage issues with the current Fire Department, space needs for City admin and Information Technology, or communication issues within the City departments amongst other issues.
- **What about the Depot?** The building is a replica of the Mancos Colorado depot. It was moved onto the site in the 1960's. The building belongs to the Chamber of Commerce and was placed on City Property as long as it remained the Chamber building. The building has never belonged to the City. With the Chamber having moved, the building is currently empty. The Chamber of Commerce has a signed contract with the Railroad to relocate the building.