



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2020

Community Input Session: Reimagine YOUR Civic Center Park

Traverse City, MI – Nearly 1,600 individuals have completed a community survey about the Grand Traverse County Civic Center. Now, the public is invited to hear survey results and provide more detailed input as part of the master site planning process for this community park.

Although owned by the county, the Civic Center is located in the heart of Traverse City at 1213 W. Civic Center Drive. According to Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Director Kristine Erickson, “anecdotally, the park is in constant use, receiving at least one million visitors each year.” Formerly the site of the county’s fairgrounds, today the Civic Center features lush green spaces, a walking track, a playground, an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor amphitheater, a skate park, a pavilion, ball fields, a basketball court, a walking/jogging path, and more – all, said Erickson, “developed individually and at different times.”

Lack of signage, less-than-ideal traffic flow and parking, and an aging infrastructure are just a few of the issues to be addressed during the master site planning process. That is why, in February 2020 after reviewing proposals, the county Parks and Recreation Commission made a motion to approve hiring the design firm of Beckett and Raeder, Inc. (BRI) to lead a site planning effort for the park. Erickson explained that the goal is to “create an exciting new blueprint for the future of our community’s cherished park.”

Erickson pointed out that some of the facilities and green spaces are outdated to the point where they no longer serve their highest and best use. “It’s not easy melding the history of a fairground with newer park amenities, and that’s why a plan is necessary,” she said. “We are relying on our residents to help connect the dots and contribute to a cohesive plan for our park that will serve generations to come.”

The Parks Director urges park users of all ages to stop by the public input session, to be held this coming Monday, June 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the outdoor pavilion at the south end of Civic Center Park (if raining, the session will be held in Howe Arena at the park). According to Erickson, the format will be informal, similar to that of an open house. “We just want as many as possible to provide suggestions and ideas for their park’s future.” Social distancing will be enforced during the session, and all are asked to wear masks.

Between now and the end of June, residents also are reminded that the Civic Center youth survey is open for those 18 years and under to contribute to the site plan on line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CivicCenterYouthSurvey>

Stay up to date throughout the planning process by visiting the website at www.gtciviccentersiteplan.org.

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GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Civic Center Master Site Plan

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Be a part of it!

Grand Traverse County residents are asked to help guide the planning and design process for the future of Civic Center Park, located at 1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City.

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation is developing a master site plan for YOUR Civic Center Park and needs YOUR input.

DATE: Monday, June 22, 2020

TIME: 5 to 7 p.m.

PLACE: Civic Center Outdoor Pavilion
1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City

Please feel free to drop by any time between 5 and 7 p.m. to offer input about what you would like to see developed, changed, or remain the same at Civic Center Park. Social distancing will be enforced. All participants required to wear masks. Call 231-922-4511 or visit <http://gtciviccentersiteplan.org/index.html> for more information.

NOTE: Location will change to Howe Arena if raining.