

My name is Bill Findlay. I am a retired Pediatrician and I serve as the Chair of the PRAB subcommittee for the Community Rec. Center planning. This committee includes all members of PRAB shown in the picture above. PRAB is a City Council appointed group of volunteers to advise the Parks and Recreation Development and the City Council on matters related to parks and recreation. Council assigned us the task of guiding the planning for the CRC, a process that has recently concluded.

Our involvement started many months ago with our participation in the Parks and Rec Open Space (PROS) master plan. This identified a CRC as the greatest need in GJ. Next, we were involved in the CMU professors survey, which showed strong support for a CRC and willingness to fund it by a variety of choices. Finally, our work during the CRC planning included the three sessions leading to our recommendations to City Council at each critical juncture in the planning process.

Specifically, session one evaluated CRC sites; we recommended, and council adopted Matchett Park as the preferred site. Session two looked at the size and funding options; PRAB recommended the larger 83,000 sq ft/\$70M facility funded by cannabis tax revenue and supplemented by a 0.15% sales tax with a 30-year sunset. This 0.15% sales tax, if approved by voters, would end when the CRC is paid off. Thankfully, once again council adopted our choice. Session three included projected annual revenues and expenses, operations, and conceptual design with many graphs, tables, and data sets along with some 3D illustrations. We recommended that council adopt this last chapter of the planning process.

Finally, the last step in the CRC PRAB mission was to review the written report emanating from the three sessions, first in draft form, then after receiving input from many sources, the final version. For the final version, we unanimously voted on 11/1/22 to recommend official adoption of the plan by City Council and to direct staff to draft ballot language for the 4/4/23 election. Thankfully, on November 16, 2022 council again adopted our recommendation and adopted the CRC plan and directed staff to draft ballot language for the April 2023 election.

The full CRC plan along with the PROS plan is viewable at giparksandrec.org. I want to thank all my fellow PRAB members for their participation and support for this entire process-including extra meetings, extended meetings, and reams of data and public comments to review. That work made this the strongest possible plan.

Finally, a link to the full CRC plan is available at giparksandrec.org so the broader public can have an informed understanding of the plan that would bring Grand Junction its first Community Recreation Center.

Sincerely,

William Findlay MD (retired)
CRC PRAB Subcommittee Chairman