

Feedback from Mayor Bach's Community Forums

CSPD

- Why is it necessary to replace the Sand Creek building? (parking issues, lack of work space)
- Can't you just add on to the existing Sand Creek building?
- How long will it take to build a new Sand Creek building?
- Why do the police have to keep evidence so long?
- CAPS volunteer table at the forums has been getting lots of inquiries about volunteering with the FD and PD.

CSFD

Colorado Springs Fire Department staff received the following **feedback** during the Mayor's Community Forum events. All of the remarks below were unsolicited comments by citizens:

- The need to maintain fire department facilities because they are the only facilities that are occupied 24/7/365
- Change wording on our project, "Remodel restrooms." Concern over wording, citizen stated that some in the community might not investigate deeply enough and publically criticize spending over a half million dollars on restrooms. NOTE: Project is necessary due to changing demographics on the CSFD requiring appropriately sized restroom and locker room space for both genders
- The department should raise money by hosting progressive dinners; charging individuals and families who would like to eat at fire stations
- Fire stations should all have lit flag poles for the American flag
- Questions were asked regarding our opinions pertaining to funding CIP through a tax initiative or through the issuance of bonds as proposed by the Mayor
- Citizen engaged in a discussion about the value of the CSFD CARES program and Crisis Response Team (CRT1), to reduce the calls for service by CSPD patrol units and CSFD heavy apparatus
- Citizens commented that the portion of the bond allocation for public safety did not seem big enough
- The Fire Department should add larger lit signs in front of all fire stations so that they can be identified as safe havens

Colorado Springs Fire Department staff received the following **questions** from citizens at the Mayor's Community Forum events:

- Why would restroom renovation cost so much?
- How old is the oldest facility?
- What is the plan for staffing the new station planned for the north end?
- Why are large fire engines taken on medical incidents?

- Please explain the advantage of creating an access to Airport Road, for Squad 8, and how improved access would impact response times
- When will the City or region fund an Early Detection System for wildfire?
- How successful is wildland mitigation? Is there a statewide plan to standardize mitigation efforts and make them mandatory?
- When is Fire Station 22 going to be built? How will Fire Station 22 be staffed? Is the staffing model data driven? Are there plans to replace the staff at Fire Station 19 at some future point?
- Questions were asked regarding our opinions regarding funding

Public Works

- Project specific comments:
 - Shortening a splinter island on Brainerd Roundabout
 - Signalizing Brainerd and Briargate
 - Repaving S Academy at the land fill location
 - Extending Centennial south of Fillmore (2 wanting it completed)
 - Uintah Corridor Improvements (3 favorable)
 - Uintah and 19th Improvements
 - Cimarron and I-25 timing
 - US 24 corridor
 - Signal at Ridge Road and US 24
 - Traffic Study needed for Seven Falls Expansion
 - Several citizens asked about How the Colorado Avenue project would affect their neighborhood access near Columbia Avenue, Garden of the Gods RV Park, and Ridge Road
 - Person offered to donate ownership of portion of Shooks Run behind her house on Prospect
 - Several folks liked the Roundabout at 8th / Cheyenne
 - Questions about the Uintah at 19th intersection improvements
 - Question about schedule for Evans Avenue Bridge replacement
- Some requested more maintenance on lower volume residential streets, but they understood our reasoning for focusing the major maintenance work on higher volume roads.
- The majority of folks seemed to agree we need to do more than we are for infrastructure maintenance, replacement and upgrades.
- One person asked us to consider sidewalk on the south side of El Paso near Ridge Road
- One gentleman asked us to consider street maintenance for Parliament Drive
- Concern over lack of residential street maintenance (west side)
- Many people interested and glad to see a 5 year plan, organized

- Several people had positive comments on the maintenance paving program.
- Most people like the idea of paving arterials and collectors, rather than residential roads.
- Some concern that this is just an intermediate plan. What about the future?
- Some individuals expressed concern that the proposed funding would take the place of current funding and then, current funding would be re-appropriated.
- Some individuals stated that they would vote for this proposal if the language on the ballot reflected the proposed work which we are presenting at the forums.
- Concern as to why we weren't doing smaller residential street maintenance
- One gentleman said he did not favor revenue bonds
- Several folks glad to see that we were addressing all areas of interest in all areas of the City
- Why things aren't generally in better shape, questions about how to report issues as they come up
- Many people are using the forum opportunity to comment on items specific to the neighborhood that are not even a part of a proposed project. i.e. the city should put up stop signs at specific streets close to their houses, can the City help enforce private landscaping, etc.
- This is a short-term fix, what happens after 5 years?
- A 5-year solution will enable the City to gain trust of citizens
- Jobs should be a priority
- This is a good plan will get us heading in the right direction
- Let's take a 5-year phased approach and re-evaluate from there
- Everyone seemed generally supportive of the effort although there have been several comments about it might not be enough money for stormwater
- Auditorium – Mary Ann Evans lives at 920 Evening Star said her property has been flooded in the past because water is backing up behind the Chelton Bridge at Spring Creek. She feels her issues have been ignored in the past, so I volunteered to meet her at her home the following Friday, which I did. Ms. Evans took me on a tour of her neighborhood and yes, I did observe several issues that need to be addressed.
 - The Chelton Road Bridge does have a lot of debris of the pier that needs to be cleaned.
 - It does appear a considerable amount of material has been dumped in the Spring Creek Floodplain in the Golf Course and should be removed.
 - Chelton does not have curb, gutter or sidewalks where it crosses Patty Jewitt. Ms. Evans said this was a school route and wants to see it improved.
- Lady lives along Hutchinson north of Fountain wanted to know when the concrete channel behind her house would be cleaned. (I brought to Cole Platt's attention).
- Randy Cloud who owns the Colorado Springs Flea Market had questions about the Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant, which we had submitted to FEMA. I told him that we recently heard from FEMA that the Grant was not approved. I had Ben Sheets send him a copy of the rejection letter.
- The existing concrete channel between Research and Blue Sky needs repaired.

- No warning signs along the concrete channel in the Briargate area “Keep out of concrete channels”.
- 7183 Stinson Drive – the home floods due to water coming out of adjacent substation. Flows have washed out culvert.
- Stormwater Damage at 6275 Lehman Drive in the Office Park.
- The existing concrete channel north of Meadow Ridge, between Moundsview and Drifting Cloud has holes in it along with exposed rebar.
- The existing concrete channel south of Research at Blue Sky has holes in it along with exposed rebar.
- Kenyon Jordan asked why we only had \$5Million on list for Camp Creek when the estimate is \$37Million.
- Marcy Rodgers who has 7-houses along Cheyenne Road and Cheyenne Boulevard asked about flooding she gets from the Road. Back before the City annexed the area there were roadside ditches. The City has never maintained the ditches and now they have all filled in and there is no place for the water to go.
- Jan Fritchle at 1405 Cheyenne Boulevard also has complained about being flooded because there are no ditches along Cheyenne Boulevard
- Elise Fuller at 2 Heather was concerned about work we did upstream impacting the homes along Heather. (She was referencing the Excavator that the City put in the Creek at the Guthrie’s at the end of Scott). (FYI – I have met with those owners in the past and they want the City to remove the sediment that was deposited in the creek. Subsequently I have discussed and met with the NRCS on-site. They will fund the sediment removal if approved by Congress).
- Danny Mientka? came by to discuss his development between Nevada and Cheyenne Road. He wanted to know if we were buying out the house on Mount Washington that is condemned. I told him we are currently working through the FEMA Bureaucracy and plan to acquire the house.
- Walter Lawson came by and wanted to know if we could make our channels out of harder concrete. I told him we could; however, we wanted to get out of the concrete channel business and focus on natural channels that were resilient and sustainable.
- Hanna Polmer at 1413 Mesa Avenue came by to ask me what the City is going to do about the flooding she receives from the adjacent Broadmoor Hotel property. She said her last correspondence from the City said it was a Civil issue and she was not going to accept that answer. I told her I would meet her at her home next Tuesday and look at the issue myself.
- I also talked to Monica Mendoza, Pam Zubek and the reporter from the Cheyenne Edition in regards to the projects on our list.

Finance

- Questions and comments both positive and negative about the Storm Water initiative. More were happy that it did not pass but they know things need to be addressed.
- People seemed to be more concerned about roads and getting them addressed than they were about parks.

- Mostly people were interested in the list of projects that were deemed the most pressing. And most were happy when they saw that things were being addressed in their area of town.
- Why not go for a tax increase -- property taxes are so low here
- Need long-term solution – this is only 5 years but have to pay for 20 yrs – what do we do after the 5 yrs?
- Expected a sit-down forum with presentation and Q&A
- Glad Mayor is proposing a bond issue rather than raising taxes—people can't afford higher taxes
- Think it's a good start but not enough
- Why is Mayor bringing this forward so close to April election—why didn't he bring it up sooner?
- Wouldn't vote for it, because the voters will think that it fixes all of our problems and it doesn't
- Would vote for it, just using our resources in a smart way
- Sounds like bonding is a good way to go
- Like that the emphasis on streets, not stormwater
- Like the proposal, since it basically continues the same process we did with SCIP
- Thought SCIP was successful and it is smart to do it again
- Thinks it is a good step, but doesn't solve everything

Community Initiatives

- Replace missing sidewalks in neighborhoods – especially connectors to public facilities and transit.
- Westside: Why were strategy areas changed? Westside should continue to be a focus in the City.
- The City should invest in “No Man’s Land”
- How do folks who need help but don't meet income limits get help?
- Need for rehabilitation of multi-family rentals.
- Homelessness is a choice. Why is the City investing so much in ending homelessness?
- More has to be done to help the homeless become self-sufficient. There is not enough housing.
- More resources need to be directed to Southeast Colorado Springs. Specifically, the southeast deserves a 21 Century Library.
- Build an indoor soccer facility in southeast Colorado Springs to serve Southeast Springs Soccer Initiative. People are reserving the racquetball courts at the YMCA to play soccer.
- Increase lighting where sidewalks are improved to improve pedestrian experience. Leverage PPRTA funds by expanding sidewalk installations in PPRTA funded areas that are also low income areas using federal dollars.
- Buses need to run more frequently.

Park, Recreation and Cultural Services

November 12 – Coronado High School

- We need to install more soccer fields. Happy to see the partnership that has been formed with the Switchbacks.
- Was disappointed that there was no way to provide a written comment.
- Was confused over the format. Advertised as a forum and expected a presentation or some more formal exchange of comments or discussion.
- Why isn't there anything included for Garden of the Gods?
- The Palmer Mesa Trail is in very bad condition, when will you be improving it?
- Thought there should be more funds allocated to Parks, how will we accomplish the significant backlog
- Pleased with the efforts related to soccer and artificial fields
- Why wasn't Ute Valley Park on the list.
- What were the plans for the improvements at the West Side Center
- When will the South Douglas Creek Drainage and Sinton Trail be improved, especially between Holland Park and Chestnut.

November 13 – Shriners Club

- More trail connections needed for commuters
- Why isn't there more funding for parks? The 10 million is nice but not nearly enough.
- Why isn't there more money for the Garden of the Gods especially in the equestrian trail areas?
- Thanked us for plowing her trails. Loves a city that doesn't plow her streets but plows her trail. More trail connections please!
- Where is the money for the North Cheyenne Canon roadway? This is an important roadway that should be completely redone.
- Concerns about Westside Community Center. Want to see the improvements identified in the Development Plan from several years ago completed. Specifically: Dead trees need to be replaced, parking lot improvements, playground improvements, on-street parking improvements, trash receptacle enclosure. Doesn't want to see busses stored on the property.
- General support for projects on the Westside, but need to address the homeless problem first. Homeless and trash are a big issue for the trails and parks on the west side - especially the Midland Trail. Need to get businesses to adopt and take care of this corridor or hire additional park staff to take care of it. You can't ask volunteers to pick up needles and other bad things.
- Wants to see more funding for trails on the Westside - especially for the completion of the Midland Trail from 21st to 25th streets, and completion of the Midland Trail between Columbia and Ridge Rd.
- Loves the open space on the Westside, Red Rock Canyon in particular, but want to see a better pedestrian crossing at Hwy 24 and Ridge Rd. This crossing is very dangerous.
- Heard complaints about restrooms being closed. Homeless are defecating along the trail system. It smells terrible and is a health concern.

- Heard advocacy for more funding for historic places such as City Auditorium and Pioneers Museum. These places are special and we let them fall into disrepair.
- Fielded general questions about the Parks Department Budget. Wanted to know about ways we are saving irrigation water. Discussed changing to xeric plantings and reducing bluegrass.

November 18 – SE YMCA

- Intrigued by the outdoor fitness zone planned for Deerfield Park.
- Artificial turf is a good idea.
- Artificial turf, due to carcinogenic issues, is a bad idea.
- Glad to see something happening at Panorama Park.
- Liked the playground surfacing options.

November 20 -21st Century Library

- Questions about Venezia Park. Looking forward to the park construction and wanted to know why Venezia wasn't identified for funding as part of the CIP list. Explained that this project is funded in 2015 with other funding sources (PLDO).
- Heard advocacy for the development of the community park in Wolf Ranch. Individual wanted to know why the project list didn't include funding for the Wolf Ranch Park. More parks are need in the northwest part of the community to keep up with the growth. Wanted to know why the parks aren't built as part of the development process.
- Heard that more funding should go to roads and parks rather than a downtown museum or stadium. People need good roads and our community loves its parks. Parks are one of the few things that keep people here. We need to take better care of them.
- Talked to a number of Boy Scouts about parks in their neighborhood. They wanted ball fields to be better maintained with better grass. Liked the idea of artificial turf but hate it when they fall and the rubber gets under their skin and in their clothes. They also wanted better trail connections from their neighborhoods.
- Excited about Venezia Park being constructed.
- Frequent questions about artificial turf and play surfaces. Generally liked the idea of conservation and water savings. Some asked about residential applications of the artificial turf.

December 2 – City Auditorium

- Need to make sure that the underprivileged areas of town get appropriate attention. They have been underserved.
- Liked that Deerfield Hills and Meadows Community Centers were receiving upgrades.
- Glad to see that the City Auditorium was scheduled for upgrades even though it was a few years out in the schedule.
- Need a property tax in place for capital needs.
- Liked the artificial turf proposals.
- Trails need attention. Wouldn't mind if all the dollars went to the trail system.

- Was pleased to see dollars allocated to City Auditorium but feels more needs to be done
- Only 10 million to parks when we have significant needs that are continuing to go unfunded.
- Pleased with the water conservation efforts and agreed that it does take an adjustment to the native turf.
- Loved the Fitness zones and wished more could be accomplished throughout the City.
- Wanted to see more done for the trails this was a good start but more money should be going to alternative transportation methods.
- Why wasn't Palmer Park on the list? Road needs resurfaced and significant improvements could be accomplished through this treasured park.
- Was confused over the format. Advertised as a forum and expected a presentation or some more formal exchange of comments or discussion.
- Are we working on connections to the south so that there is greater access to and from the Security/Widefield area?
- Was really pleased with the safety surfacing for playgrounds being used in our parks wished we could have more replaced.

December 4 – Cheyenne Mountain High School

- More of the available dollars ought to go to parks.
- Trail work is badly needed and would support more than is proposed.
- Glad to see dollars to support the Westside Community Center.
- Need to have a tax for capital improvements. The bond issue doesn't supply enough.
- Developers need to carry more of the burden.
- Cheyenne Mountain High School Heard love and support for the Parks System. Wanted to see more operating dollars go to parks to address maintenance and upkeep - especially along City Trails.
- Big supporter of our park system - particularly for more open space. Need more park rangers to have a presence at the properties. Need to have more staff to address dogs off leash. Also need police to pay more attention to parks. We need enforcement of park rules to make parks safe and more enjoyable.
- Complaint that there is only one project identified for the northwest part of the community - just a fence out of \$10 million? Would like to see other northwest projects. Was concerned that his advocacy at the Ute Valley Master Plan meetings would go unheard. Wants to have the Ute Valley multi-use trail relocated on the proposed master plan.
- Was confused over the format. Advertised as a forum and expected a presentation or some more formal exchange of comments or discussion.
- Glad to see the display talking about parks efforts to reduce water usage.
- Heard frustration that many projects are not listed. Explained that funding for the Parks Department comes from a variety of sources (TOPS, PLDO, CTF, etc...). The list of projects for the

community forum focuses on projects that can't be funded through these other sources. Also a focus on renovation and repair rather than new park facilities.

- Parks does a great job overall, just needs more resources and money for irrigation water. Tired of Council and Mayor playing games with the Parks Budget.