



MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
Department Heads

From: Kelly Murphy, Assistant City Manager
Arne McMullen, Recreation Director

Date: October 20, 2023

Re: 203 Country Club Road: Recreation – Public Input Process

In the Spring of 2022, Council authorized Ballard & King to finish work associated developing financial forecast to determine if resources exist to support a new facility. The results of this work will be presented to Council on 11/8/2023.

Since this work was initially commissioned January 2019, the City has weathered the COVID19 pandemic, purchased the former Elks Club Property at 203 Country Club Road, and experienced a catastrophic flood. At Town Meeting on March 1, 2022, voters approved the purchase of this property for the development of housing and recreation. The Montpelier Country Club Road Actionable Plan, adopted on June 28, 2023, indicates a parallel process to determine use of the reserved recreation and community zone, which is 12 acres.

Open questions include:

- The community's vision for the future of recreation relative to the location of a facility and the possible uses of the existing facility at the Country Club Road site had also not been identified with any intentional process.
- Determine gap in outdoor and indoor recreational supply and demand, taking into consideration current conditions.
- What square footage of what types of spaces are needed?
- How many fields are needed?
- What is the usage currently between recreation and schools?
- What should happen to the existing building? Should the existing building be repurposed?
- What will the location be for a new combined facility for recreation and other community services?
- Consider public private partnership options to lease land for use or to build and operate a facility.

Public Process:

- Status of work to date (October 2023 – November 2023)
- Stakeholder Engagement (December 2023)
- Community Response – public input sessions and survey (January 2024 to March 2024)
- Concept Plan(s) – Based on Community response for Council Consideration (March 2024)
- Resource Allocation (FY2025-FY2030)

Fall 2023: We are now launching recreation use phase of work for the Country Club Road, which includes an extension of the public process to gather more feedback and hear priorities. The intent is for staff and City Council to hear all feedback so Council can make an informed decision to select a vision for Recreation at Country Club Road. The team will use that direction to develop concept plans and make recommendations for resource allocation.