

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 4:30 p.m.
Casper City Hall
Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. LifeSteps Campus Management
2. Community Promotions – Final Results
3. Update to the Boomer Study
4. River Revival Report
5. RESPECT Our River Campaign
6. Future Agenda Review

10/20/2014

MEMO TO: John C. Patterson, City Manager

FROM: Liz Becher, Community Development Director
Joy Clark, Community Development Technician



SUBJECT: Management of LifeSteps Campus

Recommendation:

That City Council consider a contract for professional services with the Casper Housing Authority (CHA) to manage LifeSteps Campus, for the 5-year period beginning December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2019.

Summary:

The current contract with the Community Action Partnership of Natrona County (CAP) for the management of LifeSteps Campus will expire on October 31, 2014. City staff issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in September 2014 to solicit interest and options for the ongoing management of the campus. The Casper Housing Authority and Community Action Partnership submitted proposals which specifically addressed strategic visioning for the ongoing management and development of the campus. Following a formal interview with the City evaluation team of Linda Witko, V.H. McDonald, Liz Becher, and Joy Clark, staff decided to recommend CHA for the management contract.

The mission of the CHA is to provide quality affordable housing that is well integrated into the fabric of neighborhoods and serves as a foundation to improve lives and advance resident independence. CHA's proposal provided a new direction for the LifeSteps campus. The staff and Board are experienced in property management. The Housing Authority will be able to expand upon the work that CAP initiated on the campus over the past three years. The Housing Authority outlined their organizational plan in their formal response to the RFP. Their plan is exciting, aggressive, and achievable. Their partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) continues to result in vouchers that can be used for existing programs or new Housing First initiatives to develop housing programs at LifeSteps Campus. The CHA will have on-site property management and maintenance, 24 hours/day.

Housing continues to be a major need in the Casper community. The City organized a housing coalition over a year ago to bring together our community housing partners and social service agency partners. The quarterly meetings address emergency, transitional, and permanent-supportive housing strategies, many of which are beginning to take shape. A recent needs assessment identified the major housing issues in the community as

availability, affordability, and credit. In addition to addressing these issues in the community, and at LifeSteps campus, the CHA plans to partner with CAP and the other local human service agencies to address health and nutrition, employment, transportation, education, and emergency preparedness.

A historical chronology of LifeSteps campus is attached for Council's review, and with Council's direction, the Management Contract with CHA will be presented for approval at the November 4, 2014 Council meeting.

LifeSteps Campus – A Brief Look

Background:

In the late 1930's the Wyoming State Legislature saw a need to establish an orphanage. The City of Casper offered the State the land that they had set aside for future cemetery expansion along East 12th Street as a site for the orphanage. In addition, a portion of the land was also to be set aside for a school for the orphanage, to be operated by the local school district. The orphanage was constructed in the early 1940's, specifically Buildings B (the school), E and F (connected by a tunnel). Later the cafeteria, gymnasium, and additional dormitory rooms and cottages were constructed. The state continued operating the orphanage until the mid-1980's when the facility became known as the Youth Treatment Center – a time when more emphasis was placed on foster homes for orphans, and turning assistance to youth in trouble.

When the Legislature closed the facility in 1995, the City got its land back that would allow for cemetery expansion. In addition, there were several buildings with a useful life. The City issued a request for proposals for use of the property. The successful proposal came from the Casper Housing Authority (CHA) with a vision of leasing the property to nonprofit organizations that provided services to homeless persons and families at a centralized campus location. The CHA operated the campus from 1995-2006. The CHA returned the campus management to the City of Casper in November of 2006 and City Staff managed the property until October 2011 when the Community Action Partnership (CAP) was a successful bidder to operate management of the Campus. In November of 2014, property management will be negotiated with the entity that is awarded the new four (4) year management bid.

Original Goals for Life Steps Campus:

The initial vision for LifeSteps Campus by the Casper Housing Authority was that “the available buildings uniquely match requirements for various supportive housing programs needed to serve people with special needs and little income.” The vision included providing on-site services to assist people with special needs to live as independently as possible.

Tenants on Campus:

Tenants providing human services on the campus are:

- Early Head Start – Building E, day care and learning services for children.
- Casper College ABE/GED – Building E, adult basic education, general education diploma services.
- 12th Street Clinic – Building E, healthcare services for homeless.

Tenants providing residential programs are:

- Wyoming Housing Network – Building B, permanent affordable housing for persons earning at or below 50% of area median income, total 8 apartments – 4 one bedroom units and 4 two bedroom units.
- Community Action Partnership of Natrona County – Building F, Transitional housing for individuals – 12 rooms.
- Community Action Partnership of Natrona County – Building E, Transitional housing for homeless families – 10 rooms.
- All About Family – Building E and Building H, new residential program on the Campus, October 2014.

October 23, 2014

MEMO TO: John C. Patterson, City Manager
FROM: Fleur Tremel, Deputy Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: Community Promotions – Second Round Voting Results

Recommendation:

That Council review the attached voting results for the third round of the Community Promotions process to confirm that they accurately reflect the will of the Council.

Summary:

The City of Casper received forty-three applications for Community Promotions funding this year. Of those, thirty-four were successful in the first round of voting, so they were moved forward to the second and final round.

Council has now submitted vote sheets for the second round of voting. Those results indicate that **\$266,280.74** of Community Promotions funding should be awarded this year, including **\$54,051.56** in cash, **\$99,922.74** for in-kind services, and **\$70,270.00** for facility rentals. As a reminder, groups are required to match 50% of in kind and facilities costs; the totals in this memo represent the entire amount.

	Cash	In Kind	Facilities	Total
Successful First and Second Round Applicant Requests	\$96,088.00	\$99,922.74	\$70,270.00	\$266,280.74
Preliminary Result	\$54,051.56	\$99,922.74	\$70,270.00	\$224,244.30

Council may now review and discuss the results of the second round. The voting compilation is included with this memo for Council's use and consideration. If these results are appropriate, then they will be sent forward for formal approval at the Regular Council Session on November 4, 2014.

Community Promotions

FY 2015

Round 2 Results

#	Organization Name	Event Name	First Round Result	Cash		In Kind		Facilities		Total Request	Final Result
				Cash Requested	Cash Result	In Kind Requested	In Kind Result	Facilities Requested	Facilities Result		
1	12-24 Club, Inc.	First Night Casper, 2015	Fail								
2	12-24 Club, Inc.	Recovery Rally - 2015	Pass					\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
3	Arc of Natrona County and Casper FFA Alumni	Field of Dreams Corn Maze	Fail								
4	Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming	Summer Programming	Pass			\$4,550.00	\$4,550.00			\$4,550.00	\$4,550.00
5	CASA of Natrona County	Scholarship Program	Fail								
6	Casper Amateur Hockey Club, Inc.	Season Events 11/1/14 - 10/31/15	Pass	\$14,368.00	\$8,233.78			\$31,920.00	\$31,920.00	\$46,288.00	\$40,153.78
7	Casper Children's Chorale	Community Performances	Fail								
8	Casper Civic Chorale	2014-2015 Concert Seasons	Fail								
9	Casper Figure Skating Club	Holiday Show 2013	Pass					\$2,640.00	\$2,640.00	\$2,640.00	\$2,640.00
10	Casper Marathon	Casper Marathon	Pass			\$1,128.16	\$1,128.16	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,628.16	\$1,628.16
11	Casper Museum Consortium	"Museum Minute" on the Brian Scott Morning Show	Pass	\$7,020.00	\$3,951.11					\$7,020.00	\$3,951.11
12	Casper Soccer Club, Inc.	Casper Fall Classic	Pass			\$252.00	\$252.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,252.00	\$1,252.00
13	Casper Soccer Club, Inc.	Rocky Mountain Indoor Cup	Pass			\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$9,150.00	\$9,150.00	\$10,650.00	\$10,650.00
14	Central Wyoming Fair Association	2015 Central WY Fair & Rodeo	Pass			\$29,721.75	\$29,721.75			\$29,721.75	\$29,721.75
15	Central Wyoming Fair Association	2015 Central WY Fair & Rodeo-Banners	Pass			\$243.24	\$243.24			\$243.24	\$243.24
16	Central Wyoming Fusion	Junior Olympic Girl's Fast Pitch State Softball Tournament	Pass	\$13,500.00	\$6,944.44	\$1,504.00	\$1,504.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$15,104.00	\$8,548.44
17	Central Wyoming Skating Assoc.	Spring Ice Show	Pass					\$4,080.00	\$4,080.00	\$4,080.00	\$4,080.00
18	Downtown Casper Business Association	Downstwon Balloon Festival	Pass	\$2,000.00	\$1,333.33	\$1,927.56	\$1,927.56			\$3,927.56	\$3,260.89
19	Downtown Casper Business Association	Fall Festival	Pass	\$2,000.00	\$1,222.22	\$1,887.56	\$1,887.56			\$3,887.56	\$3,109.78

Community Promotions

FY 2015

Round 2 Results

#	Organization Name	Event Name	First Round Result	Cash		In Kind		Facilities		Total Request	Final Result
				Cash Requested	Cash Result	In Kind Requested	In Kind Result	Facilities Requested	Facilities Result		
20	Downtown Casper Business Association	Christmas Parade	Pass	\$1,000.00	\$777.78	\$2,400.33	\$2,400.33			\$3,400.33	\$3,178.11
21	Eddie McPherson Memorial Hockey Foundation	Eddie McPherson Memorial Tournament	Pass					\$4,080.00	\$4,080.00	\$4,080.00	\$4,080.00
22	Fort Caspar Museum Association & The 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry	Platte Bridge 150th (Ft. Caspar 150th)	Pass	\$7,000.00	\$4,222.22	\$1,980.00	\$1,980.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$9,055.00	\$6,277.22
23	Mercer Family Resource Center and Natrona County Prevention Coalition	Family Day	Pass			\$610.50	\$610.50	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$660.50	\$660.50
24	Mercer Family Resource Center Youth Empowerment Council (YEC)	YEC Ski Day	Pass			\$3,405.00	\$3,405.00			\$3,405.00	\$3,405.00
25	Natrona County Suicide Prevention Task Force	Breaking the Silence Walk	Pass			\$1,470.00	\$1,470.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$1,495.00	\$1,495.00
26	Nicolaysen Art Museum	2015 NIC Fest	Pass	\$25,000.00	\$12,222.22	\$11,870.96	\$11,870.96	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$36,945.96	\$24,168.18
27	Nicolaysen Art Museum	Wednesday Night Live 2015	Pass			\$7,725.00	\$7,725.00			\$7,725.00	\$7,725.00
28	Platte River Trails Trust	Riverfest	Pass	\$5,000.00	\$3,166.67	\$1,910.00	\$1,910.00			\$6,910.00	\$5,076.67
29	Recreation Foundation	2014 Craft Fair	Pass	\$2,350.00	\$1,527.78	\$3,258.00	\$3,258.00	\$9,700.00	\$9,700.00	\$15,308.00	\$14,485.78
30	ServeWyoming	2015 Volunteer Guides, Spring and Fall Editions	Fail							\$0.00	\$0.00
31	Shaina Wolff	Time To Teach	Fail							\$0.00	\$0.00
32	Special Olympics Wyoming	2015 Fall Tournament	Pass	\$6,000.00	\$3,611.11	\$2,556.44	\$2,556.44	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00	\$11,806.44	\$9,417.55
33	Special Olympics Wyoming	2015 Summer Sports Classic	Pass	\$750.00	\$627.78	\$1,104.00	\$1,104.00			\$1,854.00	\$1,731.78
34	Special Olympics Wyoming	Casper Area Special Olympics Winter Games	Pass	\$1,100.00	\$900.00	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00			\$8,250.00	\$8,050.00
35	Stage III Community Theatre	The 2015 Middle Platte Renaissance Faire	Pass	\$3,000.00	\$1,777.78					\$3,000.00	\$1,777.78
36	The Science Zone	Summer 2015 Exhibits: "Little Builders," "Brain Teasers 2"	Fail							\$0.00	\$0.00

Community Promotions

FY 2015

Round 2 Results

#	Organization Name	Event Name	First Round Result	Cash		In Kind		Facilities		Total Request	Final Result
				Cash Requested	Cash Result	In Kind Requested	In Kind Result	Facilities Requested	Facilities Result		
37	Wyoming Amateur Softball Association	WYO ASA Mens D 3-4 State Tournament	Pass			\$596.00	\$596.00			\$596.00	\$596.00
38	Wyoming Amateur Softball Association	ASA National Umpire School	Pass			\$360.00	\$360.00			\$360.00	\$360.00
39	Wyoming Fiddlers' Association District #4	Rocky Mountain Regional Fiddle Championships & Music Festival	Pass	\$1,000.00	\$722.22					\$1,000.00	\$722.22
40	Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies	Cruzin' Against Hunger Charity Poker Run and Family Fun Event	Fail							\$0.00	\$0.00
41	Wyoming Medical Center Foundation	Holiday Square & Reindeer Run	Pass			\$2,187.24	\$2,187.24	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$2,212.24	\$2,212.24
42	Wyoming Medical Center Safe Kids of Central WY	Kohl's Heads Up/ Safe Kids Day/ Safe Kids Swim Night	Pass			\$8,625.00	\$8,625.00	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$9,475.00	\$9,475.00
43	Wyoming Symphony Orchestra	2014-2015 Concert Season	Pass	\$5,000.00	\$2,811.11					\$5,000.00	\$2,811.11
TOTALS			34	\$96,088.00	\$54,051.56	\$99,922.74	\$99,922.74	\$70,270.00	\$70,270.00	\$266,280.74	\$224,244.30

FY 2015
CASH

#	Organization Name	Event Name	Cash Requested	Cash Result	Schlager	Meyer	Hopkins	Sandoval	Goodenough	Hedquist	Powell	Cathey	Bertoglio	Blank Cells
6	Casper Amateur Hockey Club, Inc.	Season Events	\$14,368.00	\$8,233.78	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$14,368.00	\$14,368.00	\$5,000.00	\$14,368.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
11	Casper Museum Consortium	"Museum Minute" on the Brian Scott Morning	\$7,020.00	\$3,951.11	\$2,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,020.00	\$7,020.00	\$0.00	\$7,020.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	
16	Central Wyoming Fusion	Junior Olympic Girl's Fast Pitch State Softball	\$13,500.00	\$6,944.44	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$13,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
18	Downtown Casper Business Association	Downtown Balloon Festival	\$2,000.00	\$1,333.33	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
19	Downtown Casper Business Association	Fall Festival	\$2,000.00	\$1,222.22	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
20	Downtown Casper Business Association	Christmas Parade	\$1,000.00	\$777.78	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
22	Fort Caspar Museum Association & The 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry	Platte Bridge 150th (Ft. Caspar 150th)	\$7,000.00	\$4,222.22	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	
26	Nicolaysen Art Museum	2015 NIC Fest	\$25,000.00	\$12,222.22	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
28	Platte River Trails Trust	Riverfest	\$5,000.00	\$3,166.67	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	
29	Recreation Foundation	2014 Craft Fair	\$2,350.00	\$1,527.78	\$1,400.00	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00	\$100.00	\$2,350.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$2,350.00	
32	Special Olympics Wyoming	2015 Fall Tournament	\$6,000.00	\$3,611.11	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	
33	Special Olympics Wyoming	2015 Summer Sports Classic	\$750.00	\$627.78	\$400.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	
34	Special Olympics Wyoming	Casper Area Special Olympics Winter Games	\$1,100.00	\$900.00	\$500.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	
35	Stage III Community Theatre	The 2015 Middle Platte Renaissance Faire	\$3,000.00	\$1,777.78	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	
39	Wyoming Fiddlers' Association District #4	Rocky Mountain Regional Fiddle Championships & Music Festival	\$1,000.00	\$722.22	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
43	Wyoming Symphony Orchestra	2014-2015 Concert Season	\$5,000.00	\$2,811.11	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	
		Totals	\$96,088.00	\$54,051.56	\$39,300.00	\$39,200.00	\$94,088.00	\$96,088.00	\$37,850.00	\$96,088.00	\$44,650.00	\$0.00	\$39,200.00	

October 22, 2014

MEMO

TO: John Patterson, City Manager

FROM: Linda L. Witko, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Senior Citizen Study Update

Background

In 2005 the City Council approved a budget line item to conduct a “Boomer” Study which would identify the concerns and needs of the segment of the population known as the “Baby Boomers” who would soon be planning their retirement and long-term living arrangements. The concern was whether Casper was a “Senior Friendly” community where seniors would feel comfortable living, and what services or programs would be needed to support this growing segment of our population. The projections are that at some point in the not too distant future, as much as 1/3 of the residents of the State of Wyoming will be 60 years old and older.

The project was led by then-Mayor Kate Sarosy. The Study Committee was formed with representatives from the County Commission, the Senior Center, the City/County Health Department, the City of Casper Recreation Division, the Housing Authority, the City of Casper Parks Division, the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Natrona County, the Home Health agencies, Rocky Mountain Power (Energy Share), Source Gas, Wyoming Medical Center, the Natrona County Public Library, local banks, Town of Evansville, Town of Mills, Town of Bar Nunn, Casper Area Economic Development Alliance, and the City of Casper Community Development Department.

Consulting services were provided through a contract with the University of Wyoming Education and Social Research Institute in the Division of Social Work. Staff from the Institute and Social Work Students from UW/CC provided professional services to conduct the research into the national trends, local resources, and community needs as they relate to senior citizens in Casper. The study was divided into two phases with Phase I devoted to development of a database for the agencies and private organizations in Casper that serve the aging population and their capacity to continue to serve the growing population of seniors. Additional review of national publications and studies on the topics of aging produced a bibliography of source materials, and a series of Citizen Papers on specific topics related to senior service needs. Those white papers include the following topics: mental and physical health, financial and economic security, work and retirement, education and lifelong learning, leisure and recreation, family and social relationships, civic involvement and volunteerism, technology, housing and transportation, public safety, assistive technologies, and senior friendly community design. These papers were distributed throughout the community to provide information and direction for seniors seeking assistance in preparing to “age in place” in Casper. The final report for Phase I also included a suggested study design for proceeding to identify specific recommendations for Casper to meet the needs of the projected population of seniors in our community.

Phase II of the Study utilized the process which was developed in Phase I which included a survey tool directed at the target population in Natrona County, a series of focus groups including over 200 “Boomers” (born between 1946 and 1964) from various parts of the community, and an analysis of the data collected from these two sources to identify key themes and issues. The Final Report included a set of recommendations and an Executive Summary of the entire project which was made available for general distribution throughout the community.

The Final Report was released in 2008 and an Oversight Committee was formed to monitor the implementation plan for the recommendations which were adopted by the City Council. The Committee met on a quarterly basis through 2012 and provided support and direction for all of the groups involved in the Action Plan for addressing the key recommendations from the Study.

This project received a national award from the Environmental Protection Agency under the Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging Programs in the category of the National Commitment Award in 2008. Since that time several other communities and organizations in the State and in the Nation have contacted us about our project and sought advice on how to do a similar project in their communities.

Costs for the study in addition to staff time included a contract with the University in the amount of \$60,000 for Phase I and another contract in the amount of \$50,000 for Phase II. Private donations were solicited from stakeholder organizations and a total of \$24,750 was contributed from a variety of private businesses, including the Casper Community Foundation, the United Way of Natrona County, the Wyoming Medical Center, the Chamber of Commerce, the Casper Star Tribune, Blue Envelope, Interim Health Care, U.S. Bank, Source Gas, Rocky Mountain Power, and Wells Fargo Bank. Public entities such as the Towns of Evansville, Mills and Bar Nunn, the County Commissioners, the City-County Health Department and CAEDA also contributed funds to the project.

Implementation

The recommendations contained in the report were divided into six categories and action steps were assigned to various entities to follow-up on implementation.

In the area of Health Care four agencies were charged with working to develop options for improvements to the delivery system for health care services to seniors. Significant progress has been made in each of these areas, especially with regard to the variety of educational programs directed at senior citizens and the access to health care providers through the construction and expansion of the Community Health Center of Central Wyoming.

Workforce development and volunteer programs have increased in Casper in an effort to tap the potential resources that are available in our retired population. Many seniors have been called back to work to fill the slots that have been created as the economy has seen another “boom” and more part-time opportunities are open.

The City Recreation Division has sponsored the Senior Olympics for two years in an effort to encourage seniors to become more active. Additional recreational and educational programs have been developed through Casper College and the Natrona County Public Library specifically targeted to senior citizens.

Wyoming 211 has become a reality and provides an active database of services which are available to seniors in the Casper Area as well as across the state. The City of Casper and the MPO have continued to support and expand the services available through CATC. The City has continually evaluated programming and services to make certain we are addressing the needs of our aging population including making the community more “walkable” as well as providing more online services for those who may be home bound.

Local banks have expanded their programs to address the needs of senior citizens recognizing that this population will form a significant portion of their deposits and trust funds in the future.

Housing needs continue to be an area of concern with regard to seniors but several new alternative housing projects have been constructed in Casper during the last 5 years. The Senior Day Care Program was abandoned due to funding issues and the Dementia Center Project has also been unable to move forward with construction and has focused on bringing training programs and support programs for care givers to our area.

Going Forward

It has been suggested that Council may want to consider funding an update to the Casper Area Boomer Study. The senior population has continued to grow and the demand for services has increased. Central Wyoming Senior Citizen Services, Inc. has also noted the reduction in funding for programs from the State and Federal Governments which has placed additional stress on their already tight budget. Although there are no current statistics available to staff there is a sense that the population of citizens over the age of 60 is increasing and many of the agencies who provide services for this population are feeling the pressure to expand their programs. It may be possible to partner with the State of Wyoming as they look at how to meet the demands of this growing segment in their programing and funding.

This Study could be funded in stages as it was in the first effort. The initial action would include creating the Study Committee and then developing an approach to conducting the Update. The process would require pulling together a committee to review the work from the first project before determining a scope of work which would be requested for the update. This step could take some time but would allow the group to develop a proposal for funding from the FY2016 budget that would be considered by Council in May of 2015. An RFP for consulting services could then be sent out in July of 2015. If a decision was made to contact the University to see if there was an interest in working on this project it may take some time to get their response because there have been staff changes in that Division since 2012.

Staff would like direction from Council on whether there is an interest in proceeding with consideration by the stakeholders in updating the “Boomer Study”.

Casper "Baby Boomers"

**A Community-Based
Action Research Project
for Community Services
for Older Adults**



Dr. Vicki Murdock and Dr. Mona Schatz
Wyoming Education and Social Research Institute:
*Building Positive Change for Families,
Older Adults, Youth and Children*

Division of Social Work
University of Wyoming
College of Health Sciences
Laramie, WY 82071
www.uwyo.edu/socialwork
307-766-6112/766-4933

Acknowledgements

This exploration into today's aging Casper residents was made possible through funds from:

- City of Casper, WY
- Central Wyoming Senior Services, Inc. and Wyoming Senior Services Board
- Blue Envelope Health Fair
- Casper Area Community Foundation
- Casper Area Economic Development Association
- Casper Area Chamber of Commerce
- Casper *Star-Tribune*
- City-County Health Department
- First Interstate Bank
- Interim Health Care
- Jonah Bank
- Natrona County Commissioners
- Natrona County Public Library
- Rocky Mountain Power
- Source Gas
- Town of Bar Nunn, WY
- Town of Evansville, WY
- Town of Mills, WY
- United Way of Natrona County
- U. S. Bank
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Wyoming Medical Center

Oversight provided by members of the Senior Study Committee, Phases One and Two, is gratefully acknowledged. Community experts in aging who took time to participate in the phone needs assessment and pilot focus groups are gratefully acknowledged for their willingness to share professional and personal thoughts and feelings. The 174 Boomer-aged focus group members who responded to invitations to participate are very much appreciated for their openness and good will as they shared their thoughts and feelings about growing older. The research

efforts of the University of Wyoming's Dr. Deborah Fleming, Dr. Rex Gantenbein, Mr. Milt Green, and Dr. Judith Powers provided key components for the pilot phase of this research. Their expertise was invaluable to the study. Assistance from University of Wyoming students, various staff persons, and volunteers to the Study Committees and to the researchers is gratefully acknowledged.

Executive Summary

Among the key results of the Casper Boomer Study (Boomers are those persons born between 1946-1964), the following statements illustrate central concerns and ideas about those adults who are currently nearing their retirement years.

- Everyone who participated in this study, whether a focus group member or a member of the Study Committee, even colleagues and co-workers listening on the sidelines, was fully engaged and excited to discuss the retirement future for Boomers, those retiring in the next two decades. Conversation in the groups was vibrant, and the discussions allowed everyone the ability to consider their own issues, concerns, and biases that are and will become a part of their own future "retirement" story
- Casper professionals in the aging field who work with older adults have already seen an average 25% increase in numbers of clients requesting services, a small increase in comparison to the future growth due to the Boomer population
- People are aware that Wyoming ranks first in the nation in suicide; many respondents to this study want to address creating a "good death"
- Male participants in the study believe there must be outreach to men 65+ who they fear will not ask for help
- Boomer-aged respondents have small numbers of family and friends as a social support system. 25% report having no one to provide care to them; 25% already give care to others; small support systems limit informal help, thus putting great demands on formal systems (An example is the

excessive use of the Fire Department when aging residents fall and need help getting up)

- Among the professional services needed in Casper are the following:
 - more respite care providers to help exhausted caregivers,
 - a facility or set of smaller living environments for aging adults with psychiatric and behavioral problems,
 - a non-emergency service available to provide health care for health needs such as simple falls
- Boomers are the first generation to watch their elders live into very old age and to see the fragmented system of care, recognizing the limitations they too may experience as they age
- 35% of Boomer respondents already have a chronic health condition that they will continue to manage as they age
- 38% of participants are uncertain when, or if, they will retire from the workforce because of financial insecurity, an insecurity that relates both to the worry about funding with Social Security and due to a shaky stock market; many respondents anticipate working part time as long as they possibly can work
- Though travel is viewed as an "add on" in retirement years, 37% of the Boomers in the study indicate that they do not anticipate engaging in organized social/leisure activities in retirement and 49% indicate that they do not currently engage in social/leisure activities
- The sheer numbers of Boomers will dramatically change the workforce, the leisure scene, healthcare, and housing
- Casper was viewed as a good community to live in now and also a good community in which to live when retired if reasonable changes were in place, changes that include smaller living units that are maintenance free, good community medical care, and strong social supports

Introduction to the Executive Summary

The Wyoming Education and Social Research Institute (WyoE Family Institute) at the University of Wyoming completed this two-phase, community-based research project on the projected retirement needs and expectations of Baby Boomers in Casper, Wyoming. This project was funded by the City of Casper, Central Wyoming Senior Services, Inc., and many local businesses and agencies. The results of Phases One and Two are summarized below. This pamphlet gives results and recommendations from the study data and from the meetings held with the Senior Study Advisory Committee.

Why undertake a study about Casper's Baby Boomers?

Communities across the nation and globally are beginning to realize the widespread social, economic, and political changes that are likely to unfold with the "silver tsunami" that is the Baby Boom generation. There is projected to be more than a doubling of the number of people age 65+ in the next two decades in America (U.S. Census, 2007). As this large population group approaches their retirement years, our communities must understand the unique needs that will arise, needs that will require public responses—policy changes in the public arenas along with changes in private industries.

In 2007 and 2008, leaders in Casper, Wyoming, directed a research project that would answer the question: What will Casper Boomers need and want in terms of public and private services in the upcoming decades?

The Senior Study Advisory Committees

Two "Senior Study Committees" provided oversight for the research process. The committees included government officials as well as a key group of leaders from local health, community development, recreation, and senior services departments and organizations. These committees participated in the pilot process and in the recommendation process toward action steps to be taken.

The UW Research Team

The core research team for Phase One and Two was comprised of UW faculty: Grant Director Mona C. S. Schatz, DSW, Director, Division of Social Work, and Grant Research Director Vicki Murdock, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Social Work. Phase One UW researchers also included Deborah Kay Fleming, Ph.D., Clinical Professor, College of Health Sciences and Wyoming Institute for Disabilities and Director of the Wyoming Geriatric Education Center; Rex E. Gantenbein, Ph.D., Director and Professor, Medical Education & Public Health, Center for Rural Health Research and Education; and Milton Green, M. Ed., Extension Educator, Field Operations, UW Cooperative Extension.

Key activities of Phases One and Two: January, 2007 to May, 2008

Key activities during Phase One of this research project included a needs assessment of the professional care providers to older adults in Casper, a piloting of the survey and focus group approaches, an extensive body of professional materials gathered, organized and integrated into a relevant literature review as background to the study, a series of sixteen issue papers available to the public on topics relevant to Boomers, a working report created for the Senior Study Committee of the pilot process and initial data analysis, and a review of all products with the advisory committee before implementing the second phase.

Phase Two of the study was completed with 22 two-hour focus groups in addition to the eight pilot groups, survey results from 196 members of the focus groups, and a random phone survey of Casper Boomers of 401 participants. Data was analyzed for all components of the study and results presented to the Senior Study Committee in meetings and in a full report in May, 2008. Recommendations were developed from the study results and from work with the Senior Study Committee and the research team to finalize action steps.

Overview of Different Areas of Study

What follows are short summaries of each stage of the study.

Telephone Needs Assessment of Local Providers

Forty-seven agency representatives shared information about their clientele, and needs and concerns for the future.

Unfortunately, only one-half of the respondents from these organizations indicated that they had any strategic plan in place. A strategic plan typically sets out how the organization will change and grow in future years. Thus one can conclude that their organizations are not, as yet, planning for the services and programs that may be needed to serve this larger aging adult community.

Series of Citizen Papers

Based on a review of the most current professional information available, these issue papers focus on the categories identified for investigation: mental and physical health, financial and economic issues, work and retirement, education and lifelong learning, leisure and recreation, family and social relationships, civic involvement and volunteerism, technology, housing and transportation, safety, assistive technologies, spirituality and elder-friendly communities. This material can be reviewed on the webpage maintained by the Division of Social Work. The URL address is as follows:

http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/WYOE_INSTITUTE/Boomer.asp

Selected Bibliography

Professional information and demographic data (630 entries) related to the aging of the Baby Boom generation was gathered and organized. This material can be reviewed on the webpage maintained by the Division of Social Work. The URL address is as follows:

http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/WYOE_INSTITUTE/Boomer.asp

Finalized Study Design

The study design was initially piloted with 29 participants in eight focus groups before implementing the vignette focus group approach with 174 additional Boomer group members in 22 two-hour focus groups. Two survey instruments were piloted and used with a total of 597 Casper Boomers.

Selected Key Study Findings

Study results come from the three sets of data gathered in the research: Phone Survey (N= 401 participants), Focus Group Survey (N= 196 participants), and Focus Group Narrative Results (N= 196 participants; 30 groups).

- Key Findings from the Phone Survey (N= 401) include:
 - 23% have no friend or family member who could help them out temporarily,
 - 30% have a chronic condition,
 - 19% provide regular care to someone,

- 14% have no primary healthcare provider,
 - 61% have no long-term care insurance,
 - 31% did not know when they would retire, 44% will work after retiring and 36% were not sure if they would work after retiring,
 - 59% worry about having enough money to retire
- Key Findings from the Focus Group Survey (N= 196) include:
 - 25% of respondents have *no* friend or family member who could help out temporarily,
 - 35% have a chronic medical condition,
 - 25% currently care for someone else,
 - 38% do not know when they will retire, and 25% will not retire,
 - 46% may move away from Casper,
 - an average 49% responded “no, do not do” to current leisure activity and an average 37% responded “no, will not do” to future leisure activity
 - Key Findings from the narrative Focus Group Results (N= 30 groups) include:

Negative factors were more prevalent in the dialog:

- fears, costs, service needs/gaps,
- uncertainty about the future due to personal longevity and economic instability,
- lack of social support due to fewer available family members and friends,
- “Boomer traits” of greed and selfishness,
- Boomers as the 1st generation to *expect* to live into old age

Positives about Boomers and aging also emerged:

- Boomers will demand changes in care and services,
- Boomers could be a “national service group,”
- Boomers are recognizing the value of simplifying and the importance of relationships,
- Boomers are ready to talk about death and dying

Study Recommendations

Recommendations were developed from analysis and study of the results of the two surveys and the narrative focus group

data. A series of five meetings were held with city leaders, the members of the advisory Senior Study Committee and the research team to identify significant recommendations for the future. Recommendations will be used to create action steps that can be taken by various groups, agencies, businesses and units of the Casper region. Following is a list of recommendations.

- Develop a Commission on Aging to oversee implementation of action steps taken
- Create a community advocacy program to assist older adults
- Gather Boomers together to continue the excitement of the study with further civic involvement
- Develop a healthcare database
- Create checklists for consumers of services to assure that appropriate services will be provided
- Provide education about aging that would increase awareness of the surge in numbers of older adults
- Offer education on topics critical to Boomers as they age and to younger adults about retirement
- Develop training programs to help Boomers work as needed
- Initiate a work and volunteer clearinghouse and skills bank
- Develop a leisure/civic engagement activity inventory, future planning and media campaign, and enhance of current leisure opportunities
- Move toward the standard use of universal building codes for all new building and revise necessary statutes to allow more options for older adult housing
- Create housing options that include affordable, maintenance-free homes for older adults
- Educate on financial options to help older adults stay in their homes or move to older-adult-friendly homes
- Identify ways to assure safe, usable streets, walking paths, bike paths, and trails
- Develop a home maintenance program for seniors that would ensure reasonable pricing and good work
- Offer strategic planning for businesses and agencies
- Offer current and future financial planning options for seniors, and education about financial management and protection of wealth

This range of recommendations illustrates the complexities that will emerge as this large group of aging adults moves into retirement years. It is the hope of the many contributors to this study—public officials, business and agency leaders, researchers, participants, staff, and student assistants—that

these results and recommendations inform and encourage thoughtful planning and responsive actions.

Building this university-community partnership has been exciting and rewarding and as this project ends, there will be a void that will hopefully lead to new areas for collaboration. The opportunity for the research faculty to work with the members of the Senior Study Committees has been a rich process of exchanging ideas and sharing insights throughout the many months. Reporting on the findings brought momentum for the recommendations that will be shared with the Casper City Council and other governmental units. Equally valuable, having engaged undergraduate and graduate students in this community-based research also gave vital opportunity to share in the mixed approach to this study. More students know about Boomers as a population group, and more students now have their awareness turned to this important area of social change.

Though there is a great deal of information to absorb in this document, this study should not gather dust. The City, the business community, the community organizations and programs really must come together and locate their own strategies for this livable Casper community, for the Boomers of today and tomorrow. We learned that too few area aging programs have any strategic planning efforts. This will not ready the community. We learned that health care must be readied for Casper Boomers and we learned that some efforts already exist among medical institutions to examine this up and coming surge, but time is narrowing its jaws.

Among Boomers, this report might suggest a few things that personally can be taken on as an agenda for the future. For example, when asked about when a Boomer might stop driving, the ETC telephone results give a dismal picture about Boomers and personal judgment. Boomers should consider ways to "get their personal wants and needs" spelled out. Medical directives, financial planning, and issues about personal health limitations must be addressed. These Boomers should make plans for what they want to do, when they can no longer do things that include taking trips out of state, when they are unable to drive, or when they can not read very well. Boomers must develop friendships that are interdependent and be willing to make new friends as they age. Friends and family need to become comfortable that at times they have to help each other. That is something that crosses generations and is normal, natural, and needed.

October 20, 2014

MEMO TO: John C. Patterson, City Manager
FROM: Jolene Martinez, Environmental Sustainability Manager
SUBJECT: Platte River Revival Volunteer Day 2014

Recommendation:

That Council affirm their continued support of the Platte River Revival.

Summary:

The North Platte River is one of the city's most valuable assets. A restored and revitalized river will produce many benefits to the community including improved livability, increased recreation, transformed riparian habitat, enhanced tourism, and additional environmental education and economic development opportunities. If the large numbers of volunteers who participate in Platte River Revival Volunteer Day every year is an indicator, a restored river will be a source of community pride.

At a work session on February 26, 2007, Council authorized staff to develop, organize, and help execute a community-wide cleanup of the North Platte River from city boundary to city boundary and bank to bank. The project was named the Platte River Revival, as it was the goal to not only remove debris from the river but also to restore the river or "revive it." Council further authorized and funded investments in a river restoration master plan in 2009 and renewed their commitment to all components of the Platte River Revival in June 2013. At the Council meeting on October 21, 2014 Council approved the acceptance of \$2.5 million in grant funding for in-river construction.

The eighth Platte River Revival Volunteer Day was held on September 27, 2014. Over 600 volunteers gave their time this year to remove litter and debris from the river, the creeks feeding the river, and their associated banks; hauled felled Russian olive trees (a state of Wyoming designated noxious weed); and protected trees along the river by wire wrapping them. Over 100,000 pounds of litter and debris, including more than 50 tires, were collected this year.

Some notable Volunteer Day accomplishments since 2007:

- Over 3,500 volunteers have participated in Volunteer Day.
- More than 1,356,000 pounds of debris have been removed.
- Four mature stands of Russian olive trees have been removed from the riparian area.
- At least 750 high-benefit trees in the riparian area have been wire wrapped for protection.
- Nearly \$600,000 in cash and in-kind sponsorship have been generated from the private sector.

Volunteer Day is a key component of the Platte River Revival. It was the starting point of the entire river restoration/revitalization project because it provided an opportunity for the community to get involved in hands-on restoration work and an opportunity to build the funding necessary for expensive restoration construction. However, it was recognized from the beginning that a volunteer day would not provide all the resources—manpower, expertise, and funding—necessary to restore the river. The transition to the second phase of restoration occurred in 2013 which, in addition to Volunteer Day, now includes in-river construction and aggressive bank re-vegetation at a projected cost of \$12.8 million.

In-river construction was to begin October 2014 for the Morad Park and First Street sites; however, only one bid was received that was conditional and \$500,000 over engineer's estimate and budget. Council rejected the bid at their meeting on October 7, 2014. In the next months, staff will work with the project consultant to develop a timeline for construction which will include the Morad Park site and additional sites to be rebid by January 2015 and completed in late 2015.

The ongoing support of Council and the City Manager is critical to the future success of the Platte River Revival. Especially important are the planning and implementation of the annual volunteer day and building and maintaining the strong public-private partnership that has been developed. It is these two components that will attract the necessary funding and provide the critical expertise to the restoration project within the City of Casper boundaries. The Platte River Revival Volunteer Day remains the largest National Public Lands Day event in the country. The Platte River Revival construction component is in the top ten of restoration projects in North America based on the size of the river and the miles of reach slated for construction. The public-private partnership and community involvement are unparalleled.

Casper's efforts to restore and revitalize the North Platte River will serve as an example to other communities within Wyoming how to preserve the important water resources in the state and what can be accomplished when people with a shared vision, though different perspectives, come together for the good of all.

October 20, 2014

MEMO TO: His Honor, The Mayor, and Members of City Council

FROM: Kenneth S. King, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Respect our River

Synopsis:

City Manager John Patterson formed a committee consisting of 31 members with the task of making recommendations to Council on ways to make our river safer. This is a status update for City Council.

Background:

The river safety committee has met every week since September 9th 2014. We studied the recent local drowning in the North Platte River and all white water parks in the United States. The safety committee quickly formed into a safety campaign (Respect our River) with the goal of creating a safer river environment for our residents and visitors.

Based on a 2012 Myrtle Beach Fire Department drowning research paper where they surveyed the community and other departments it was discovered that the community would like to be notified of drowning dangers by signs, radio announcements, and brochures, in that order. Next, with permission, we adopted the Association of Aquatic Professionals Drowning Prevention Program with the intention to adapt it to fit our needs here in Casper.

The Respect our River Campaign is in full swing. We are installing danger signs, creating a logo, T-shirts, give-a-ways, school education programs, fund-raising, radio PSA's, throw rings and ropes stations, life jacket loaner stations, and, most importantly, free life jackets to those who don't own one. We would like to thank City Council for their donation of 22 danger signs that have been installed from Robertson Road to Lake MacKensie.

The community of Casper is committed to the prevention of future drownings. We believe with a little education and training, learning to Respect our River and prevent drowning tragedies is within our reach.