Monday, March 21, 2011 City Council Meeting

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Dennis J. Bowyer, Parks & Recreation Director

Request:
Presentation of the input received from the Open House on the Main Avenue Fountain Plaza proposed redevelopment plans.

Time Estimate:
The staff presentation will take approximately 5 minutes. Terry McCurdy from the Twin Falls Community Foundation and Scott Allen with The Land Group will also be available. Following the presentations, we expect some time for questions and answers.

Background:
Staff presented the proposed concept plans to the City Council on February 14th, 2011. After a lengthy discussion, Council directed staff to host an open house in the downtown area for community members and downtown merchants to gather input on the designs

Staff hosted an open house on Wednesday February 23rd at the Historic Ballroom from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Members from the Twin Falls Community Foundation, Scott Allen from The Land Group and City staff were there to answer questions and address citizen's concerns and suggestions. At the open house, approximately 25-30 people attended with 17 comments forms being filled out and one letter dropped off. There were a few individuals that only gave verbal comments.

Summary of the comments:
Four prefer concept plan # 1A, nine prefer concept plan # 1B, and the other four said it did not make a difference, they liked them both

Likes:
Splash pad; updated design; additional seating for events; mini stage. The first three items gather the most positive comments.

Dislikes:
No public restrooms; the area it is located at; not a larger Main Avenue improvement plan;

Additions:
Public restrooms received six comments; enclosed playground area; murals on walls; more bench seating; instead of concrete columns, use totem poles.

Deletions:
Fewer trees

Additional Comments:
Open Hansen Street up; cost of maintenance; closing off Main Avenue; funding should come from many sources; about time; needs to go forward; great improvement to area.

Overall, all but one that attended the open house is in favor of the redevelopment plan(s) for the fountain area.

Budget Impact:
There is no immediate budget impact associated with this presentation. If one of the proposed plans is chosen to move forward, the Foundation will pay for the services from The Land Group to develop a cost estimate. As this project advances, City staff believes it is prudent to examine the maintenance costs associated with the fountain project.

Regulatory Impact:
There is no immediate regulatory impact associated with this agenda item.

Conclusion:
Staff is requesting for Council input on the designs and to consider the Service Contract with The Land Group for a cost estimate on the redevelopment of the Main Avenue Fountain Plaza, to be funded by the Twin Falls Community Foundation.

Attachments:
Comments Forms
Council Minutes from February 14, 2011
Staff Report from February 14, 2011
Proposal and Service Contract