

Collaborative Mayor (City Council) / City Manager Relationships *Creating Strong Partnerships Leads to Strong Organizations*

*Presented by
Mayor Anna Stout and
City Manager Greg Caton
City of Grand Junction*



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Building Relationships

- Developing Strong Partnerships
- The Right Tool for the Job
- Creating Mutual Support
- Tailoring Communications
- Managing Challenges
- Use of Humor
- Authenticity/Vulnerability



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Developing Strong Partnerships

- Define roles
- Agree on channels of communication
- Identify opportunities for success
- Utilize best practices of similar cities
- Hold weekly strategy sessions
- Participate in Council onboarding



The Right Tool for the Job



- Based on roles, which can achieve the goal?
- Shared challenges and goals
- Achieve goals but use different approaches

Creating Mutual Support

- Show support at City Council meetings
- Identify opportunities for community/civic presentations
- Prepare talking points for community events, newsletter articles, presentations
- Conference attendance
- Award presentations



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Tailoring Communications

- Regular weekly meetings
- Media Today
- Council Briefings
- Memos
- Access via cell phone
 - Text
 - Hands free
 - Email



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Managing Challenges

Richmark Project

Orchard Mesa Pool

- Incentives for developer
- Expired agreement between County, City School District to maintain and operate outdated pool

Richmark Project Legacy downtown development



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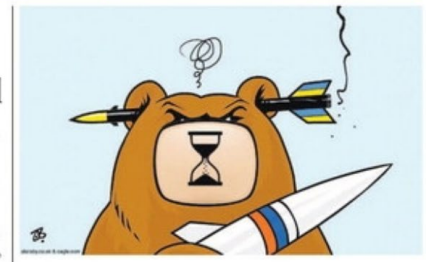
COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL Calming waters around OM Pool

Dora City Council seem a bit irascible of late? The Grand Junction City Council has been taking flak for the decision, made jointly with Mesa County and School District 11, to close Orchard Mesa Pool. Some of the stories we have published on this issue have not been particularly fair. The newspaper serves as a mirror to the community and its governments, but perhaps we can be a bit of the solution as well. Keep reading.

We understand the City Council feels that shouldering most of the blame for what is happening with the pool isn't fair. There is a lot of blame to go around and maybe they are getting more than their fair share.

City Council is basically a volunteer board, and the members put in long hours trying to do what's right. Some blame, however, falls squarely on their shoulders, like announcing that the OM Pool would be open for a "defined period of time" without defining what that period would be. That's actually an "undefined period of time." We're sure they can see



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Orchard Mesa is the most environmental groups were mad for paper, than identify pollution they put. Personally, I'm a large responsible ideology that led to Democrat folks... cy will continue to

naavy with politics tend to vote for "blue." People who dig deeper into the political world know that policies and accomplishments are what count.

FRANK B. WATTS
Pitkin

COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL What happens after pool closes?

With emails between Mayor Anna Stout, County Commissioner Janet Rowland and School Board President Andrew Hartz coming to light, it is now clear that the Orchard Mesa Pool will shut its doors for good. The parties have left themselves no wiggle room. Maybe an unidentified third party will swoop in and save it or maybe a tax measure can be passed. We aren't going to hold our breath on either.

The way this decision has been handled, even going back to 2010 when closure of the pool was first floated, has been awful. It appears to us like three organizations playing hot potato with an issue none of them want to deal with rather than working to deliver the best results for the community. And no, the process has not been transparent. Last we checked, mailing email meetings do not comply with the Open Meetings Act.

All that said, what people need now is clarity. When will the pool close and what are the options for pool users going forward? Is Pitkin expected to handle the users of the Orchard Mesa Pool? They should be included in discussions going forward to see what their needs and concerns will be when the pool closes.

We do have sympathy for the residents of Orchard Mesa who often feel like a neglected part of this city. They are undoubtedly losing something. We have argued in the past that this pool, given the relatively small number of users, is not worth the investment of millions of dollars to fund all the needed repairs and upgrades. It has also historically been a shared amenity with the city, county and school district shouldering at least some of the burden. We understand why none of them really wanted to take on the pool all on their own, as Hartz told the Sentinel this week.

"Basically, at this point, the information I've received from both the county and the city, and obviously from the school district's standpoint, is that nobody wants to operate the pool," Hartz said.

This is a fair point. None of them had funded the pool alone before, so it's reasonable for them to say they don't want to do that in the future. Unfortunately that hasn't been the clear message, except from the county, which is credit for what it stated it wanted out of the pool business through out this process.

If it is time now to move forward, which is where our largest concern lies. The way the decision around the pool has been handled and the timing of it makes us very worried about the prospect of the city passing a new tax to fund a recreation center on the other side of the city.

Let us state that if that measure passes, we will be replacing an old, broken-down facility with a new better one, but voters are likely to see the value keeping something they've always had over getting something new and better. They will see that they hold grudges.

We've received most comments from people who say they will oppose the recreation center because of the closure of Orchard Mesa Pool. That's a good point. We think it is past time that the city and county on the Western Slope get a modern recreation center. We would hate to see that effort fail because of the ham handed way I handled this pool situation.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why support a rec center when we can't keep pool?

Really? Really? You're closing Orchard Mesa Pool again? You, yes, you.

This well-said, much-needed beautiful facility is serving the elderly, disabled, children, the fit and financially challenged in an under-served area and is only a short drive from the city. If you really think citizens will not take care of what you already have? There is an observation to and maintain the pool and to build with the new rec center.

And as for dragging your feet in implementing plans to pay for the new rec center, in this town, someone or more is dragging you!

Let us hope that the city and county to trust before anything else you say you will do!

MARTHA BARRETT SCOTT
Grand Junction

The pool needs repairs, but it is not unsalvageable

The "Save the Pool" Committee would like to see more critical items made about the pool's condition and feasibility by a former environmental health specialist. At the School District's final meeting, getting information, discussion and action items to the Grand Junction Community Center Pool.

While we believe in holding the three entities at play accountable for the deferred maintenance of the pool, we also want to give credit where it's due. The parties continue to be in need of repairs. The group needs an upgrade to the deck, other needs. However, that does not mean we should abandon the pool as an unsafe standard.

By the way, the pool is in need of extensive repairs in presently here we get here. All three

entities understood and agree on this.

While these renovations are needed, pool staff conducts the open observations and discussion checks to ensure the water meets minimum sanitation standards. Pool staff is required to clean the facility and empty the tanks. An infestation is not an infestation incident in the water. Locker rooms are deep cleaned multiple times a week, and there is a rotating power-washing schedule for all deck areas. The pool is inspected routinely by the Health Department and meets the standard of sanitation required to stay open. Just because a facility looks like it doesn't mean it's unsalvageable. It means it's unsalvageable if we do not want to discontinue the service completely to save that she has not inspected the pool in over a decade... she said in her report, taking suggestions about the current functionality of the pool and the operational capacity to use in her opinion. Many of us are former, former health Department staff through which we have previously have seen for their annual inspections. If Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool had not been their standards during these inspections, the pool would have closed a long time ago.

If community members or any functionality of the pool is current functionality, we would that they report to the Health Department. There would be no need to inspect that were completed over 10 years ago.

CARINA FRIEDER
Grand Junction

Antisemitism is alive and well on the Western Slope

This is the headline from The Daily Sentinel. "Antisemitic Flyers Found in GI neighborhood." No, antisemitism still happens, and not just in "The big city," but in other and well-lit here on the Western Slope. The group that distributed these antisemitic leaflets book style pamphlets is a hate group that has been active in the middle of the night.

How often antisemitic Jews has all seen high in 2021, and 2022 is looking to be the same.

This is why we continuously fight against antisemitic flyers. This is why we stay vocal. This is why we work so hard to make our citizens aware for everyone.

The way I will not be silent.

MATTHEW BERMAN
Pitkin

Losing hope for better Broncos play next year

After another week of the Rams, a total embarrassment to Broncos fans and the entire NFL, Nathaniel Hackett is gone, which in my opinion was a merciful move. GM George Paton needs to fire Hackett. He would be the worst coach in the NFL, there will be no more Hackett.

"Not many people don't put that in a superlatives" Good players yes, but no experience. Miles likes to throw a couple of money to free players, as how has he spent more time on the injured list than any other coach? I've been a fan since 1960 and have been here for 40 years. I don't believe I'm much longer for several years to come. Sad but true.

KENNETH LEES
Grand Junction

It is up to us to fight against extremism

Last year, the American people rejected extreme election deniers to put down the bad. But we were unable to win every fight, and a tremendous threat to our democracy remains: the MAGA Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

According to the Washington Post, more than 70% of all House Republicans are conservative election deniers — 18 incumbents voted against certifying the election and an even 25 freshman members ran on the Big Lie. They might hold the title of "representation," but they have no intention of legislating on behalf of their constituents. They only care about halting their corporate donors and targeting anyone who has attempted to hold them accountable for attacking our democracy.

It's up to us to call out their lies and conspiracy theories and fight back against their extreme agenda. I hope others will join me.

ANN SCHEMBE
Grand Junction

Trump lost speaker race and there was no recount

On Thursday, Donald Trump was nominated to be Speaker of the House of Representatives. At the end of the vote, he had placed third with only one vote. As no one claimed voter fraud due to dead members voting, a recount was not called.

Amazing.

LUKE BRADSHAW
Grand Junction



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Use of Humor

- Diffuses challenging situations
- Shared frustration lightens the load
- Illustrates humans behind decisions



A Place for Authenticity/Vulnerability

- Connection to Community
- Invested in Council/Manager Form of Government
- Exhibit Servant Leadership
- Presence in Community
 - Events
 - Civic organization membership



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THANK YOU



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