



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

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January 25, 2019

Rapid City Common Council
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: Vision Fund Project Recommendations

Dear Council Members:

Attached to this letter you will find the Citizen Vision Committee's recommendations for funding from 2019, 2020 and 2021 Vision Fund collections.

The Vision Fund Committee has done an exhaustive review of Rapid City's Comprehensive Plan and the Downtown Master Plan. They devised a scoring system to prioritize the projects according to relevance to our existing plans, to include our stated goals.

As you are aware, these are the recommendations from the Citizen Vision Committee, but the City Council has full authority to allocate this funding as you see fit. This is outlined in greater detail in City Ordinance 3.16.090.

I believe it is important to emphasize that I had no part in influencing or compiling the list of recommendations. There were a few instances where committee members asked questions of me, but these questions were primarily about the process not about individual projects or applications. I believe this is important and speaks to the integrity of the Vision process.

The Committee has decided to recommend funding for 15 of the projects they reviewed. These projects fit into the categories of human services, economic development, recreation/quality of life, and downtown development/east of 5th. These recommendations include the following:



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Human Services

1. Abbott house \$190,000
2. Youth and Family Services \$1,950,000
3. Rapid City Club for Boys \$810,000
4. Rapid City Collective Impact \$4 million
5. YMCA \$1,100,000
6. Black Hills Works \$450,000
7. Canyon Lake Senior Center \$30,000

Economic Development

8. ELEVATE Rapid City \$900,000

Recreation/Quality of Life

9. Black Hills Sports \$1,650,000
10. Rapid City Area Schools \$750,000
11. Harney Little League \$100,000
12. Rapid City BMX \$78,000
13. Rapid City Softball Association \$386,000
14. Main Street Square \$187,500

Downtown Development/East of 5th

15. Destination Rapid City \$3,990,000

I believe these recommendations represent an adequate balancing of interests throughout the community.

I also believe it is important for the City Council and Mayor to acknowledge Vision Fund money does not belong to them. Furthermore, since the Citizen Vision Committee, in addition to being a good idea, is mandated by City Ordinance, a good deal of weight should be placed on these recommendations. Having said that, it is also imperative that we offer our input as both representatives of the balance of citizens of Rapid City and also as stewards of taxpayer resources.

To that end, I will offer my brief opinions on Vision Funding priorities:

Collective Impact/One Heart Campus should be a top priority for Vision funding. The success and potential of Collective Impact thus far is like nothing we have seen before in that it is a consolidated community effort to treat and support members of our community who are well below the poverty level and unable to change their situation

without help. Homelessness is a problem in America and in Rapid City, but in my opinion the biggest threat to our local economy and taxpayer resources are the “nearly homeless” individuals who are at most, one paycheck from being on the street. The One Heart Campus and its services were designed for this population.

Economic development and specifically ELEVATE Rapid City should be another of the highest priorities for Vision funding. The goals and objectives developed by ELEVATE are tailor-made to solve some of Rapid City’s major problems such as low-paying jobs, the “brain drain” from local universities and under employment. I know there is skepticism related to ELEVATE due to the fact that it is brand new, and there is also some doubt because the goals seem too great to achieve. I reject this fear and skepticism based on these facts:

The list of significant supporters of ELEVATE are some of the most successful individuals and businesses in Rapid City. These individuals and businesses do not have a track record of throwing money away, but rather have built reputations of success. This confidence of the local investors should not be taken lightly. They happen to work in the private sector where there are economic rewards and punishments of which government has no experience. I believe it’s OK to trust those who have used their own money to show their faith in something like ELEVATE Rapid City. Further, ELEVATE’s merge with the Chamber of Commerce will act as a force-multiplier in accomplishing their goals. When ELEVATE is successful, we are all successful and I feel the taxpayers who will benefit should also share in the investment. This is a true public/private partnership.

I encourage the City Council to use careful consideration and deliberation of the Vision applications. Awarding a minimum of \$18 million in taxpayer money to important community projects and initiatives should be no easy task. There is no deadline.

It should be noted that the 15 recommended projects result in a total funding recommendation of **\$16,571,500**, leaving nearly **\$1,500,000** available for City projects.

In addition to the attached 15 projects recommended for Vision funding, there are three internal projects to add to this list. Out of respect for the Vision process and the relative limited funding available for allocation, City department directors and I have limited our project selection to these three projects for your consideration. They consist of:

Updates to Dinosaur Park: \$1,600,000

Dinosaur Park is one of Rapid City’s most nostalgic and highly visible gems. It receives an estimated 50,000 visitors each year, while remaining free and open to the public year-round. Although it is free to the public, it is currently not ADA accessible, meaning

it's not accessible to all who may wish to visit. Allocating Vision Funds to this project in conjunction with already-dedicated funds from CIP will allow this project to be completed by 2021.

Creation of a Military Appreciation Park: \$390,857

The relationship between Rapid City and its military partners, Ellsworth Air Force Base and Camp Rapid, is an important part of who we are as a community. Embrace the Base, a spin-off of ELEVATE Rapid City, concluded substantially more is needed to be done to support our military installations and members. Embrace the Base has determined, and I wholeheartedly agree, it is time for Rapid City to honor both installations and their members with a visual display in Rapid City. A military appreciation park would adequately serve as a symbol of our gratitude to the Armed Forces who live in, and visit our community.

This park would be placed in Memorial Park West (where the tennis courts once were) and will include the display of an actual surplus B1 Bomber as well as other equipment which may become available in the future. The conceptual design for this park has been completed and is available for viewing. The requested funding is for phase 1 of this park which realistically will take 2 to 3 years.

CSAC Building Renovations \$2.5 million to \$4.5 million

As you are aware we will be assuming sole ownership and occupancy of the CSAC facility by mid-summer 2019. This mid-1980s building is in need of both upkeep and renovation in order to bring it up to present day needs and standards. There is a prioritized list of needs for this renovation ranging from the essential repairs/renovations estimated at \$2.5 million; however, satisfying the entire list of recommended repairs/renovations is estimated at \$4,447,484.

Additional funding source for City vision projects:

In researching our Vision Fund account, there is estimated to be approximately \$4.9 million of undesignated cash at the end of 2019, in addition to \$1 million in reserves. This undesignated cash has been accumulated from nearly \$693,000 for the ATTA Powwow grounds, unspent cash accumulated at the time of project completion during previous Vision plan years, and revenues left unprogrammed during 2018.

In summary, the City projects can be funded from the Vision Fund without impacting the 15 recommended projects from the citizen committee.

If you have any questions or require further information please let me know as soon as possible. Otherwise, department directors and I will be at the special City Council meetings scheduled for January 31 and February 7 to answer questions or assist in the discussion as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Allender". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Allender, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota

Enclosed: Summary of Vision Committee recommendations
City Vision project proposals

Vision Fund Citizen Committee Recommendations in Support of Community Projects

Priority	Requesting Agency	Proposed Project	Recommended Allocation	Requested Vision Amount	Recommendation	2019		2020		2021	
						\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1	Abbott House	2 8-bedroom Therapeutic Foster Homes	\$ 190,000	\$ 250,000	Recommend phased, partial funding (less CDBG award of \$50,000)	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000
2	Youth and Family Services	East Adams Street Facility Expansion	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 1,950,000	Recommend phased, full project funding	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 469,000	\$ 469,000	\$ 469,000	\$ 181,000	\$ 181,000
3	Rapid City Club for Boys	Front Entrance Remodel, Security and Roof Replacement	\$ 810,000	\$ 900,000	Recommend phased, partial project funding	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000		
4	Rapid City Collective Impact	One-Heart Campus - Property Acquisition and Renovation	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	Recommend one-time, partial funding toward property acquisition (121+217 Kansas City Street)	\$ 4,000,000					
5	YMCA	Remodel 625 9th Street (Floors 1,3,4,5)	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,195,000	Recommend phased, partial project funding	\$ 366,667	\$ 366,667	\$ 366,667	\$ 366,667	\$ 366,667	\$ 366,667
6	Destination Rapid City	Downtown LED Lighting and Fixtures	\$ 3,990,000	\$ 3,990,000	Recommend phased, full project funding	\$ 1,330,000	\$ 1,330,000	\$ 1,330,000	\$ 1,330,000	\$ 1,330,000	\$ 1,330,000
7	Black Hills Works	New 'Community Center' at 3603 Range Road	\$ 450,000	\$ 820,712	Recommend phased, partial funding (less CDBG award of \$99,687.88, less exercise equipment and/or non-capitol improvement portions of the project)	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000		
8	Main Street Square	Subsurface Project	\$ 187,500	\$ 187,500	Recommend one-time, full project funding	\$ 187,500					
9	Black Hills Sports, Inc.	Remodel of Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 5,000,000	Recommend funding Phase 1	\$ 1,650,000					
10	Rapid City Area Schools	Pinedale Elementary Grounds Project Including Parking	\$ 750,000	\$ 1,950,000	Recommend funding Phase 1	\$ 750,000					
11	Harney Little League	Fencing, Dugouts and Bleachers for New Fields (2)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	Recommend one-time, full project funding	\$ 100,000					
12	Elevate Rapid City	5-year Community Initiative for Economic Development	\$ 900,000	\$ 2,000,000	Recommend phased, partial funding	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
13	Canyon Lake Senior Center	Pickle Ball Courts w/ Fencing and Lighting	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000	Recommend one-time, partial funding	\$ 30,000					
14	Rapid City BMX	Speakers, electric, playground, bleachers	\$ 78,000	\$ 244,323	Recommend one-time partial funding toward bleachers and speaker system only	\$ 78,000					
15	Rapid City Softball Association	New ADA Compliant Restroom Facilities (2)	\$ 386,000	\$ 386,000	Recommend one-time, full project funding	\$ 386,000					
						\$ 11,171,167	\$ 3,158,667	\$ 3,158,667	\$ 3,158,667	\$ 2,240,667	\$ 2,240,667