

PRESS RELEASE



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June 6, 2022

atrefry@manitouspringsco.gov
(719) 306-2884

Hiawatha Gardens Task Force III Details Community Feedback and Announces July 11 Community Meeting

MANITOU SPRINGS CO – Over the past seven months, the Hiawatha Gardens Task Force III has worked with BVH Architects to develop eight options for the design and use of the historic dance hall building and four alternatives for revising the current parking lot design to accommodate all modes of transportation. In March, the Task Force conducted two community meetings to solicit community reaction to the options and alternatives.

Very consistent responses were submitted by those who attended the meetings regarding the building options and site alternatives:

- Almost 80% of the responses favored a maximum building occupancy in the 500 to 760 people range;
- The most popular building uses were, in descending order, musical performances; dances; community meetings; lectures; community performances; yoga/workout classes;
- Having an adjacent restroom building north of the dance hall was favored by 68%, as opposed to locating it on the southwest side near Fountain Creek;
- In response to a City proposal to include the City Parking Office on the Hiawatha Gardens site, 83% of responses supported having the Office on site, and 58% preferred it be in a building adjacent to, rather than inside, the historic dance hall building;
- Two of the options included a large community plaza just west of the dance hall, and 70% of the responses favored such a plaza;
- The most favored vehicular entrance/exits to the property were a two-way entrance/exit in the northeast corner of the property off El Paso Blvd. supplemented by a one-way exit onto Old Man's Trail;
- Landscaping on the site plans was appreciated by most participants, with an emphasis on breaking up paved areas with low maintenance and pollinator plantings in particular.



The Task Force is now preparing the draft prepared plan that will reflect these community priorities. These layouts will be unveiled at a community meeting slated for July 11, beginning at 6PM at Memorial Hall (606 Manitou Ave). Please mark this date down, as the Task Force wants to hear your feedback on the plan!

For those interested in more detail about the options and alternatives presented at the March community meeting and the community's reactions to them, please visit the Design Phase 1 Report at: <https://bit.ly/HGPhase1Report>.

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