

public board meeting to whether to hire Marshall or to look for additional candidates.

Marshall answered questions from the trustees and the audience. Her comments included:

- She has many years of private sector sales and marketing experience in the adult beverage industry.
- She has a master's degree in public policy and local government, knows how municipal government works, and has done comprehensive land use planning in Trinidad, Colo.
- She emphasized the need for relationship-building and networking from the state level to among entities

within the town.

- The tax base in Monument needs to expand considerably to keep up with in ux of population. This could consist of hotels, light manufacturing, or other ways to bring in money from outside.
- Average housing price in Monument is above the median for the state. Developing affordable housing within small towns will remain a challenging problem.
- She has researched Monument's need for diversification of water sources including reuse and renewable water in addition to current ground water from aquifers.
- She has a lot of resources around the state to tap into for ideas to help Monument.

"My style is hands-off, but verify.... Hire good people, trust them, and watch the money," Marshall said.

**Parks master plan presentation**

Pesicka, Public Works Director Tom Tharnish, and Mark Nemger, senior associate planner of Matrix Design Group in Denver, took over an hour to present the first iteration of a conceptual plan for "themed" improvements to four Monument parks—Limbach, Dirty Woman Creek, Lavelett, and Park Trail—based on results from the parks survey mailed to all town residents last fall. Costs mentioned for estimated design development and construction did not reflect possible savings if the town did some of the work.

Residents and trustees asked many questions and raised some concerns during this initial presentation. Three open houses soliciting more input from residents

will be scheduled between April and October, when it will be time for budget estimates to be submitted for 2016. See townofmonument.org for more information.

Limbach Park would be geared for children up to 12 years old and have a "train" theme. Possible hardscape includes additional parking at the south end, a motion-activated splash pad fountain, fencing, a pavilion at the northeast corner, and more. The trustees asked many questions about water use and water clarity and safety if kids drink it if it is reused in the fountain. Estimated design development and construction costs were \$391,000.

The Dirty Woman Creek Park draft plans included teen-friendly features such as a loop trail around the park, concrete trails in the food plain, replacing playground equipment with a skate park developed with design ideas from teens, a play area for young children near the picnic pavilion, a climbing wall, an underpass under the railroad, new official parking at north side and along the road, and a dog area. The cost is estimated at \$470,000 for rough total design development and construction.

The Park Trail Park draft plans included adding a community garden, parking, planting buffer between homes and additional parking, demonstration xeriscape garden, benches, a grass play area, a BMX bike track or multisport play area, a berm for sound barrier and/or seating for people and windbreak for garden area. Estimated cost was \$334,500. Trails End residents raised concerns about bringing outside traffic into their neighborhood if this park became a destination event area.

Lavelett Park, themed for senior citizen activities, had draft plans including fitness stations and a walking area, a gazebo (already scheduled to be installed this year), art display areas, a swing set, and maybe eventually moving the existing community garden out of this area. An \$87,000 cost estimate was given.

Tharnish emphasized that these are preliminary concepts, "not set in stone." The town will do some work in-house to save money and will search for grant money too, he said. Input from residents, the school district, senior

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