



Memo

To: Planning and Evaluation Committee

From: David Jund, Facilities Director

Date: March 11, 2021

Re: **Social Gathering Spaces - Staff Update**

Over the past 4-1/2 years, the topic of social and community gathering spaces around GVR campuses has been discussed and considered.

On March 18, 2020 the following motion was presented to the Board of Directors: *That GVR staff explore and implement a pilot program creating a social gathering space which would be operational from November 2020 through March 2021.* The motion was withdrawn.

At the May 14, 2020 P&E meeting the following motion was presented: *To postpone the Gathering Space implementation of a 6-month test until next year and to put on hold the \$10,000 allocation in this year's Project Plan until 2021.* The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors were notified of this decision at the March 18, 2020 meeting.

The subject reemerged at the September 24, 2020 P&E meeting with West Center being the location being discussed. The agenda item was specifically: *West Center Social Gathering/Coffee Shop.* The subject was an agenda item, though the name changed, and discussed for the following two months. At the December meeting it was recommended to be put on hold until the January meeting.

Since the January 14, 2021 P&E meeting, staff has begun looking into developing and improving exterior areas at West Center. A major part of these improvements will be to incorporate social gathering concepts. Staff is also building a project budget to be part of the FY2021 budget.



West Center is considered by many as one of GVR's premier centers. This is due to its ability to house and host a wide range of events and activities, along with its central location and abundance of parking. The property has a large exterior area that has much potential to be updated and more welcoming to members, guests, and visitors.

Some exterior improvements and additions being considered are:

- Tables and seating (some permanent, some movable) in the main courtyard, crafts building courtyard and outdoor performance area.
- Replace concrete backless benches with more modern contoured benches with backs.
- Shade structure over performance area that will be set with removable tables and chairs.
- Indigenous garden that flows throughout the property with pathway lighting.
- Charging stations and WIFI access.
- Multiple touchless cold-water dispensers.
- Bike rack areas and bike repair station.
- Exterior storage room(s).