



City of Cortez
123 Roger Smith Ave.
Cortez, Co. 81321

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

October 11, 2022

Mayor and Council:

The following is my report for the current term:

- There is still time to apply for a Community Support Grant. The application period closes this Friday at 5:00pm. Anyone still wishing to apply can find the application on the City website by typing "Community Grant Form" in the search bar. A meeting for the selection committee is scheduled to occur on October 20th, with final recommendations to be presented to Council on November 22nd.
- Denver Air Connection is doing well so far after having taken over as our essential air service on October 1st. So far they have a 100% completion rate and a 99% on time performance. We have heard a lot of positive comments at DAC and hope they are able to continue their success.
- We have had an unfortunate and ongoing problem occurring in Montezuma Park that has caused us to take some significant action. A group of homeless or displaced individuals decided to take almost literal possession of the park, especially at the bandstand. Some of these individuals began to exhibit some repeated aggressive behavior toward park visitors, nearby business patrons and employees, which ultimately resulted in generating fear in the neighborhood. It also resulted in neighborhood avoidance of the park which is contrary to our goals and mission. There was at least one event where an individual exhibited brazen harassing behavior toward a group who had reserved the bandstand for an event. Additionally this began to become a public health issue in that human waste was being found in the alley next to the park and behind the adjacent business. As a result of all this the decision was made to close the bandstand and install a temporary fence around it. Even so, the bandstand is still available to rent for a nominal fee, and reservations can be made by calling the Parks and Recreation Department. Park staff will remove the fencing to accommodate reservations as needed. The Chief of Police, Director of Parks and Recreation, and I have all been monitoring this problem since the fencing was installed and it appears the problem is improving. We have a follow up meeting with some local residents in a week or so to obtain additional perspectives and feedback.