

## Mesa Oasis Brief

### Money spent to date

- Concrete, Front Range Asphalt: \$20942.00
- Tables, APC Brands: \$9277.23
- Total to date: \$30219.23

### Remaining necessary phase

- Ground cover: Estimated Cost \$20,000

### Wishlist/Nice to have

- Pergola bench, amphitheater/small stage
- Natural elements such as logs, stumps, boulders
- Garden supplies/additions such as birdhouses, wind chimes, sculptures, outdoor classroom supplies (Taylor Bale/Sunny van der Star are writing art grants to fund this)

### Mesa Oasis Evolution

While discussing the Fun Run at the **January 6, 2023 PTO meeting**, the issue of fundraising came up, and what would we do with the funds

- Sunny suggested repurposing the garden as an outdoor space for multiple uses

At the **February 3, 2023 PTO meeting** Anna said based on projections Mesa would have \$10-\$15K to spend for the year, it's a surplus from 2021/2022

- Megan reiterated this was a one time surplus, not ongoing

From the previous PTO meeting, Sunny did quite a bit of research and presented her findings.

- Said we can look into a feasibility assessment of repurposing the space where the garden is into a seating area with picnic tables (permanent tables, benches, sun cover, little library, etc).
- Her idea was to put down 6 picnic tables, reconfigure the pergola - get rid of table, put in U-shaped seating, umbrellas for table, bird feeders, adding some color, if we put in concrete then paint it, lots of rocks/stumps to sit on, nature gathering spot
- Carrie made a motion to vote on feasibility assessment only (not allocation of budget) of outdoor space; Michelle seconded; it was unanimous in favor
- There would be a subsequent vote once there is a more detailed estimate.

At the **March 3, 2023 meeting**, Sunny gave an update to what she had named the Mesa Oasis

- Idea to repurpose the abandoned garden area and make it a multi-purpose space, for lunches, outdoor classes, general meetings

Anna confirmed during the **April 7, 2023 PTO meeting** that using forecasts/projections PTO would have \$38K excess, including the reserves.

- It was decided that at the next PTO meeting in May, we'd review Mesa Oasis, April Busch's request for the curriculum and Christine Chen's requests for the DEI.

Sunny provided an update on Oasis, reiterating we'd vote on funds at the May PTO meeting.

The final PTO meeting of the 2022/2023 school year on **May 5, 2023** included a review of the budget and Oasis.

Anna walked us through the 2023/2024 budget; highlighting DEI and Oasis, that the 2024 Fun Run was earmarked for Oasis.

- Anna explained how we had extra money from Covid years when the PTO had kept spending conservative.
- She showed that PTO has about \$23K leftover to spend, although PTO was still waiting for the final invoice from BVSD for paras

Carrie explained we want to take the remaining \$20K and put it towards the Mesa Oasis, as a starting place; stating that the vision for the project will go beyond \$20K

- Carrie, and later Kristen, said we want to vote today to earmark the \$20K, as quotes were not finalized, but want to move along once we have them.
- Carrie moved to approve earmarking \$20K of our excess funds to continue moving forward of the Oasis, Sunny seconded, 15 in favor, 1 opposed, Josh abstained.

With the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year, the PTO met on **September 1, 2023**. Anna reviewed how the tutors were less expensive than the 2022/2023 projection, and therefore the PTO did a bit more than break even.

- Through other events beside Thrives, the PTO made extra money in 2022/2023.
- Anna confirmed that the numbers we voted on (concrete & tables) are the current hard numbers
- Megan moved to approve the purchase of the tables; Jill seconded; 2 abstained, Josh & James; All voted for it
- Tables arrived and were assembled by Nov 27; had to wait for snow to melt before they were placed outside