

Town of Snowmass Village

Agenda Item Summary

DATE OF MEETING:

February 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM:

Little Red Schoolhouse Project Owners Review

PRESENTED BY:

Greg LeBlanc, Assistant Town Manager

Mike Horvath, Town Engineer

Clint Kinney, Town Manager

BACKGROUND:

The Little Red Schoolhouse, previously operated by the not-for-profit Little Red School House Organization, has been operated by Woody Creek Kids since the start of 2022. In 2021, the Town Council adopted a goal to “Explore an enhanced use of the Little Red Schoolhouse to provide an improved and enlarged childcare/early learning facility.” Following that direction, staff hired a consultant to conduct an early childhood education needs assessment and financial analysis for the Town with the primary focus on the Little Red School House property. The Town’s overarching goal is to ensure that childcare and early childhood education continue to be provided and expanded at the Little Red School House facility.

The needs assessment, site analysis and budget analysis were completed in 2022. In the meantime, the Town continued the working relationship with Woody Creek Kids by extending the lease through the end of 2025.

Following the completion of the needs assessment, the Town contracted with the design team of Land + Shelter and Alan Ford Architects earlier this year to start the design process for the expansion project at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The design team is part of a broader project team consisting of Town staff, the design team, and Christina Holloway with Woody Creek Kids.

The goal for this phase is to complete design drawings that incorporate the parameters identified by the early childhood education needs assessment within the constraints of the site and to provide the Town with the documentation to submit for the necessary Land Use case to expand the facility. The purpose of this update to the Town Council is to provide an additional “check-in” before the project proceeds to a formal land use application for development.

Attached is an overview of the schematic design for the Little Red Schoolhouse expansion project. This design incorporates all feedback received by the Town Council, staff, and Woody Creek Kids.

Staff is in the process of showing these proposed designs to both the Planning Commission and the POSTR Board. As the comments are received from the respective Boards, they will be forwarded to the Council and incorporated as best as possible. In addition, Staff is exploring grant opportunities to assist with anticipated construction costs.

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

Council may direct the project team to submit an application for development or direct the design team to make additional changes to the design.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Town Council provide any additional feedback on the project. Staff further recommends that we continue receive Board and Commission feedback and then submit an application for formal land use review.

ATTACHMENTS:

Little Red Schoolhouse Schematic Design Overview