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## Memorandum

To: Vail Town Council

From: George Ruther, Housing Director

Date: July 21, 2020

Subject: Children's Garden of Learning – Update on Progress

### 1. SUMMARY

The Vail Town Council has committed to collaborating with the Children's Garden of Learning Board to find a new home for Children Garden of Learning early childhood education center. Relocating the early childhood education center from its current location to a new site is part of a larger initiative of the Vail Town Council to address a wide range of community goals, which includes valuing and ensuring the availability of early childhood education in Vail.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Town's progress made in working with the Children's Garden of Learning Board on finding a new home for the education center.

### 2. BACKGROUND

A number of potential site options are being considered and evaluated for feasibility to relocate the Children's Garden of Learning in Vail. The Town and Board are presently working with a September, 2021 timeframe to vacate the existing building and site. Timeline remains a critical path obstacle.

In partnership with the Vail Recreation District, Red Sandstone Elementary School, Children's Garden of Learning Board and other key stakeholders, progress has been made in determining the feasibility of adding a new third atop the Vail Gymnastics Center to accommodate a new early childhood education center. In summary, the Board has acknowledged their support for this location. That said, additional study is needed to fully comprehend the possibilities.

Additional study is needed to further understand the following:

- Vehicular site access and circulation
- Project budget and timeline
- Level of disruption to existing community services and programs
- Assurance of compliance with all applicable codes, regulations, and state licensing requirements (a recent third-party report supports these assurances)
- Construction schedule
- Value engineering and method of construction

Other potential sites being considered include:

- Cascade Village Tennis Courts
- Town of Vail Municipal Offices – West Building
  - Schematic plan attached

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

The Children's Garden of Learning Board has expressed an interest in further exploring the Town of Vail Municipal Offices site. That work is currently underway. As an effort to demonstrate the party's willingness to collaborate, the Children's Garden of Learning Board has requested a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Vail.

The Town of Vail staff will meet with the current ownership group of the Cascade Tennis Courts site in the coming weeks. While far from conclusive, we intend to discuss what opportunities may exist to accommodate a future early childhood education center on the site. Any discussions should be viewed as preliminary with the understanding there is substantial work to be done.

### **4. ATTACHMENTS**

- Schematic plan for Town of Vail Municipal Offices – West Building