

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – November 7, 2019

Meeting Location: Parks and Recreation Office Conference Room

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Nick Allan
William Findlay
Beau Flores
Abby Landmeier
Marc Litzen
Phil Pe'a
Gary Schroen
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent:

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director Parks and Recreation
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Item 1: Meeting called to order by Gary Schroen at 12:00 p.m.

Item 2: Approve minutes from the October 3, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Gary Schroen made a motion to approve the minutes, with 2 minor grammatical changes from the October 3 meeting. The motion was seconded by Phil Pe'a and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 7 No 0

Item 3: Friends of Parks and Recreation

Ken Sherbenou spoke with the board about the challenge of fund raising for Parks and Recreation. It can be advantageous when applying for grants to have a group, registered as a 501c3, which acts as a fundraising arm for the Parks and Recreation Department. Marc Litzen reminded the board that when the PLACE committee was working on the community center initiative, there was a similar discussion. Mr. Sherbenou told the board he has been talking with the chair of the PLACE committee as well. Marc Litzen made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board support the creation of a Friends of Parks and Recreation group. The motion was seconded by Phil Pe'a and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 7 No 0

Item 4: Stadium Master Plan

Ken Sherbenou advised the Board that the Stadium Master Plan continues to evolve from all the options previously presented. The consultant has attached costs to the projects and presented them to the Parks Improvement Advisory Board. The partners have secured nearly all the funding for the track replacement project for 2020. Once the plan is updated with each entities' priorities, the plan will be shown to this Board again.

Item 5: Impact Fees Debrief

Ken Sherbenou updated the Board on the decision made by Council to increase impact fees that fund new park development. Mr. Sherbenou thanked and acknowledged Council for their work; for recognizing that these fees needed to be raised, and for asserting that this was important for the whole community. Board members questioned how staff would be able to address developers continuing to dedicate the least park-like land to meet their open space requirements and hoped this issue could be addressed in the upcoming master plan.

Item 6: Redlands Roundabout

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the recently completed Roundabout at Redlands Parkway. This was a CDOT project, so 1% for the Arts was not collected, however some kind of art in the center may give the intersection a more completed feel. There will be a community meeting on Tuesday, November 12 to gather community feedback.

Item 7: Connect Project Ribbon Cutting

Ken Sherbenou informed the Board that staff is working on a project to celebrate the grand opening of the new trail connecting the Riverside neighborhood to the Lunch Loops area. Once the shade structures are completed there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and, perhaps a race of some sort to utilize the new section. Similarly, work continues on Riverside Park. Staff is working on elements such as the bicycle playground and fitness stations. There will be a ribbon cutting celebration for this project as well.

Item 8: Fee Issue at Connected Lakes

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that staff are having conversations with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff regarding the commuter fees being charged at Connected Lakes. Recognizing that user fees are the way State Parks are funded but still keeping the Riverfront Trail, which crosses so many jurisdictions, accessible for commuters.

Item 9: Citizen Task Force for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Ken Sherbenou talked with the Board about creating a task force, similar to the citizen group that is working on the City Comprehensive Plan update, to focus on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The Board suggested reaching out to former members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board such as Bob Wiig and Scott McBrayer, a representative from CMU such as Derek Wagner, Ted Ciavonne, and Lena Elliott. Staff is working on an RFP to retain a professional consultant and work on the plan should start in early 2020.

Item 10: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Vacancy

Ken Sherbenou advised the Board that Abby Landmeier has resigned from the Board. Abby shared with board members that she has taken a new job, in a new field, which will reduce her availability for service on the Board. Board members thanked her for her service to the Board and wished her well in her new career.

Item 11: 2020 Meeting Dates

Ken Sherbenou talked with the Board about the proposed schedule for 2020. Members of the PLACE Committee would like to come present to the Board at the January meeting, but are not available on Thursdays. As the first Thursday is January second, the board agreed to change the January meeting to Wednesday, January 8. The meeting will be held in the usual location. Board members also decided, in consideration for the Fourth of July holiday and board member travel, to move the July meeting to July 9, 2020.

Item 12: For the Good of the Community

Gary Schroen advised the board that there is a Comprehensive Plan workshop for the community on Tuesday, November 19. The committee hopes to have as much community participation as possible.

Board members inquired about the recent election to change to the City Charter. Now that the lease term at Las Colonias Park has been extended to 99 years, what happens at the conclusion of the lease? Ken Sherbenou advised the Board that staff will be working out those details as they move forward with tenants in the Las Colonias Business Park.

William Findlay shared with the Board that Bonsai Designs has designed the new outdoor adventure park at the Denver Children’s Museum. It is quite a large area and has been very popular. Board members wondered whether they could install something similar at Las Colonias as sort of an interactive “showroom” piece, in addition to the zip line.

Item 13: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Little
Administrative Specialist