

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **Regular Meeting – December 5, 2019**

Meeting Location: Parks and Recreation Office Conference Room

### **Roll Call**

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

Board Members Absent: Beau Flores

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Tricia Rothwell, Recreation Coordinator

**Item 1: Meeting called to order by Gary Schroen at 12:02 p.m.**

### **Item 2: Approve minutes from the November 7, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Gary Schroen made a motion to approve the minutes, amended to 7 voting members. The motion was seconded by Marc Litzen and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:    Yes 5    No 0

### **Item 3: West Lake Disc Golf Course Expansion**

Ken Sherbenou, Parks and Recreation Director, shared with the Board that the Grand Valley Disc Golf Club would like to expand the course at West Lake Park to make it a putters course with 10 holes. A neighborhood meeting was held on December 4, which was preceded by a letter mailed to all neighbors. Several years ago, a larger course was removed due to complaints from neighbors about discs flying over fences and into private yards. The course was redesigned to ensure all throws went to the inside of the park, and the distance of throws was greatly reduced with all holes being designed for just putting. The neighborhood agreed to try the expansion on a temporary basis. If no issues arise from the temporary 10 hole putters course, the Grand Valley Disc Golf Club will supply the baskets and the Parks and Recreation Department will complete the installation for permanent baskets.

### **Item 4: Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission Prospect List and Current Events**

Ken told the Board that he is a member of the Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission (“the Commission”). The Lodging Tax increase that was passed gives a portion of the revenue to the Commission. Ken displayed the list of groups and events that the Commission is compiling and asked the Board for input on groups or events that are not on the list. Ken explained that the Commission monetarily supports events in the Grand Valley and pursues new event prospects. Ken will email the list to the Board and follow up with the answer of the projected lodging tax revenue.

### **Item 5: Orchard Mesa Pool**

Ken informed the Board that the Orchard Mesa Pool Board will meet on December 18 to discuss the partnership between Mesa County Valley School District, Mesa County, and the City of Grand Junction. Ken explained that the School District is interested in leaving the partnership given the

building of the new Orchard Mesa Middle School and the future the Orchard Mesa Pool is in question. Members of PRAB expressed concern over the possible loss of this community asset given the service it provides, especially with swim lessons being so important for public safety.

#### **Item 6: Stadium Master Plan Status**

Ken stated that the Stadium Master Plan has identified \$35 million worth of improvements. Therefore, prioritization had to take place and the Parks Improvement Advisory Board narrowed it down to about \$8-\$10 million. Ken explained that the loan on the Tower will be refinanced, which will result in a savings of about \$90,000 per year. Councilman Pe'a described some of the possible improvements. William Findlay asked how much the Rockies leaving would affect the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Sherbenou answered that they account for approximately a quarter of the Stadium's operational revenue.

#### **Item 7: Glacier Ice Arena**

Ken informed the Board that the Parks and Recreation Department is researching how it would look if we took over operation of the Glacier Ice Arena. Ken added that Ice Arenas typically operate at a subsidy.

#### **Item 8: Community Recreation Programs**

Ken asked the Board if they thought the needs for youth sports were being met in our community. Mr. Findlay stated that they are unless something was in danger of fading away. Mr. Litzen added that little league is taken care of, and suggested sand volleyball. Mr. Wiehe offered the idea of a week-long track camp culminating in a meet. Mr. Allan suggested offering more recreational opportunities versus competitive ones. Mr. Findlay said perhaps we should look at high school age sports since it is difficult to make the high school teams. Mr. Litzen concurred by stating that he thought the middle/high school age is not served, and if we do a basketball league it should have only officials and no coaches. Councilor Pe'a added that we needed a "club" version of sports like college has.

#### **Item 9: For the Good of the Community**

Mr. Findlay asked what was happening with the property adjacent to the Tiara Rado property. Mr. Sherbenou replied that Jay Valentine, General Services Director, has stated that no involvement by the Parks and Recreation is needed at this time. Ken further stated that the land will likely be kept as open space. Mr. Allan asked about the Redlands roundabout. Ken stated that there had been a public meeting. Attendees gave their preference for what art they would like to see and bighorn sheep was picked as the theme for the art work. The Art Commission will oversee the project and is in the process of selected artists. Councilor Pe'a asked if that was a cell tower that was being constructed at G and 26 1/2. Ken answered that yes, Verizon was building a tower in Saccomanno Park and will be paying a monthly fee to the City. Mr. Findlay asked about the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Ken stated that in 2020 the master planning process will begin and it will include recreation and facilities.

#### **Item 13: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Rothwell  
Recreation Coordinator