

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – March 5, 2020

Meeting Location: Parks and Recreation Office Conference Room

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Beau Flores
Byron Wiehe

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

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

Item 2: Approve minutes from the February 6, 2020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Marc Litzen made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Nick Allen and carried unanimously.

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

Item 3: Presentation on Open Space Managed by the City

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor in charge Forestry, Open Space and Weed Mitigation, gave a presentation to the board on Forestry and Open Space mapping and management. The City uses a software system (Lucidity), which tracks trees, work orders, labor and material costs and other pertinent information. There are over 13,000 public trees recorded in this system of over 27,000. Trees within City parks make up about a quarter of the total inventoried trees. Other public trees are in rights-of-way throughout the City. Rob advised the Board that he is working with City GIS staff to make the tree inventory public facing so that citizens would be able to tell if they have public trees. Mr. Davis has also been working with GIS staff to update the Weed Abatement Layer of the map and move this data into Lucidity as well. In addition to weed complaints within City Limits, one full time employee and four seasonal staff maintain weed control compliance on over 900 acres of City owned open space. Having this data in Lucidity would help determine a work schedule and help with capturing metrics.

Board members asked Mr. Davis about the ratio of tree plantings to removals. Though historically the ratio has been more removals than plantings the Forestry Division is hoping to improve the ratio and bring it closer to an equal number of plantings and removals. Additionally, they are testing out a new gravel bed technique that should enable the purchase of younger trees. This can be planted in this gravel bed to develop a robust root system faster than if left in containers in the greenhouse.

Item 4: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Ken Sherbenou advised the Board that there were three respondents to the Request for Proposals. All are reputable groups with lots of experience. A team of City staff will be interviewing all three firms next week.

Item 5: Butch Cassidy Marker Proposal

Ken Sherbenou talked with the Board about a proposal that has been received to place a marker honoring Butch Cassidy in Desert Vista Park. Though not a park that usually experiences a lot of foot traffic, it is proximally located to the VFW Post 1247. A similar marker has been placed by the same group at the Fruita Visitor's Center. This group also placed a marker at Crown Point Cemetery. Gary Schroen made a motion to approve placing a marker honoring Butch Cassidy in Desert Vista (or some other suitable) Park. The motion was seconded by Marc Litzen and carried unanimously.

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

Item 6: Renew Active and Silver Sneakers

Ken Sherbenou advised the Board that Recreation Division staff have been working with Renew Active and Silver Sneakers to begin Grand Junction Parks and Recreation participation in the programs they offer. Both are affiliated with insurance companies that provide free (to the user) access to fitness related activities. Silver Sneakers and Renew Active then reimburses the Department on a per visit basis. Gary Schroen made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approve beginning Renew Active and Silver Sneakers programs through the Parks and Recreation department. The motion was seconded by Marc Litzen and carried unanimously.

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

Item 7: Facility Updates: Orchard Mesa Pool and Glacier Ice Arena

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that all three partner entities of the Orchard Mesa Pool have committed to funding operation of the pool until 12/31/2021.

Glacier Ice Rink is still being evaluated as a recreational opportunity. Council has acknowledged the need for an ice rink in the community and staff are gathering as much information as possible so that Council may make a fully informed decision.

Item 8: Future Agenda Topics

Board members expressed a desire to continue reports from Supervisors, such as the one presented by Rob Davis at this meeting. Board members also inquired about the previous practice of having mobile meetings to different Parks and Recreation locations. Board members are also looking forward to updates on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) master plan and citizen task force.

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that the Grand Valley Parks and Recreation Foundation is working on forming their organization by filling their bylaws and their articles of incorporation. Hilltop will be the fiscal sponsor for the group, and will therefore be a 501c3.

Item 8: For the Good of the Community

Gary Schroen welcomed Austin Solko to the Board. Austin fills the unexpired term left by Abby Landmeier's resignation from the Board.

Marc Litzen inquired about new programs for older kids. He's received a lot of feedback that there is a gap in programming for 8th through 12th grade aged students. There isn't a place to play that is neither school nor a travel/competitive organization.

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that the next Activity Guide will include an expanded focus and highlight parks as well as recreational programming. Circulation will also increase greatly.

Item 8: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Little
Administrative Specialist