

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **Regular Meeting – September 3, 2020**

Meeting Location: Riverside Park

### **Roll Call**

Board Members Present: William Findlay  
Beau Flores  
Marc Litzen  
Phil Pe'a  
Gary Schroen  
Austin Solko  
Nancy Strippel  
Lisa Whalen  
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent:

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Dave Thornton, Principal Planner, Community Development  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

**Item 1: Meeting called to order by William Findlay at 12:04 p.m.**

### **Item 2: Approve Minutes from the August 13, 2020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.**

Beau Flores made motion to amend the minutes reflecting a change in Item 7; William Findlay made the motion and Gary Schroen seconded the motion. Additionally, Phil Pe'a is an Ex Officio member and should be removed from the second in Item 9. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

Motion to amend minutes by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 8 No 0

### **Item 3: GOCO Resilient Communities Grant**

Ken Sherbenou spoke with the Board about the GOCO Resilient Communities Grant. Staff would like to submit amenities at the development at Dos Rios as our application. There is already \$1.1M in matching funds which makes for a stronger application. Amenities under consideration are a pump park, a more advanced line in the Bicycle Playground, and a climbing wall. Additionally, staff is considering pursuing a splash pad. The River Park was such a highly utilized amenity during the time of the pandemic where swimming pools were closed; a splash pad is a water amenity that would be geared toward non-swimmers. Board members felt a splash pad would be utilized more than a climbing wall. Marc Litzen made a motion that the Board support the application to the GOCO Resilient Communities Grant including a splash pad that will help our community better address the pandemic and social distancing for the underserved population of the Dos Rios area. The motion was seconded by Gary Schroen and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 8 No 0

**Item 4: Final Statistically Valid PROS Master Plan Survey**

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that 6000 surveys have been mailed to a random sample of City Residents. In October the consultants will visit Grand Junction again to share results from the statistically valid survey. In two weeks an open link to the survey will be posted so that any interested party may respond to the same survey questions. Though the results will be kept distinct, the open link survey is still an important tool for community engagement in the process.

**Item 5: Lot A & Lot 4 at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Patterson Road**

Ken Sherbenou provided the Board with an overview of the area at 1<sup>st</sup> St and Patterson Rd. Lot 4 is owned by the Juniper Ridge School, when it was platted Tract A was dedicated to the City as a drainage easement. A citizen has proposed the City acquire Lot 4 and maintain as open space as well. The citizen would purchase the land and deed it to the City. Dave Thornton shared with the board that Tract A is in the transportation corridor, so there are benefits to the City owning Lot 4 as well. Lot 4 would likely never be re-zoned as commercial so potential development would likely be limited to one house. Board members questioned if there was actual benefit to the City taking on the responsibility for this parcel. Gary Schroen made a motion to accept Lot 4 with the condition that the cost of the acquisition be \$0 and that there be no expectation of improvements to the area. The motion was seconded by William Findlay and carried.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 2

**Item 6: Blue Heron Boat Ramp**

Ken Sherbenou updated the Board about the Blue Heron Boat Ramp. This ramp is a very busy area, particularly during this time of pandemic, and is in need of some re-configuration to help alleviate congestion and improve access. The existing ramp is very steep and difficult to maneuver, due to the river current it can be challenging to paddle to the ramp to take out, and the trail and trailer parking need re-configuration. Due to lack of match, this is not a candidate for the GOCO Resilient Communities grant, nor is it a project with an immediate timeline.

**Item 7: 2021 – 2025 CIP Requests**

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

**Item 8: COVID Related Expenses Project Ideas**

Ken Sherbenou advised the Board that the City has secured CARES Act funding, and departments are looking for project ideas related to the pandemic. Ideas include building a single track trail next to the Riverfront trail from Dos Rios to Las Colonias which further activates the trail and helps with increased utilization of the Bicycle Playground and River Park areas. Staff have also talked about formalizing the open space area at Tiara Rado. This could be an opportunity to develop an outdoor nature experience and education opportunity inside the City. Board members mentioned that true mountain bikers probably wouldn't access a flat single track along the trail, through there are some interesting areas adjacent to the existing concrete trail that a single track could dive off and access. Marc Litzen made a motion that the Board support the development of the Tiara Rado Open Space area and a Riverfront Trail adjacent single track trail. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 8 No 0

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

Marc Litzen inquired when programs would begin to open back up. Ken Sherbenou advised the board that Parks and Recreation programming is following CHSA guidelines, and other programs (such as youth basketball which rely heavily on use of School District Facilities) are postponed due to the higher contact between participants and lack of available facilities. Youth Flag Football has been postponed until spring, and both Boys and Girls basketball are planned for spring. Marc Litzen reiterated the importance of having these youth programs in place.

Beau Flores shared with the board that the Colorado Mesa University Campus is open and doing random testing on students as well as temperature checks at every building entrance. So far that has been successful in preventing new cases at CMU.

Board members shared that, while weather permits, they have enjoyed meeting outside. Provided AV isn't necessary for the next meeting they would like to meet in Sherwood Park.

In anticipation of Ken Sherbenou's family obligations the next meeting will be held on September 24.

**Item 10: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:16 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 24, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little  
Administrative Specialist