

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – August 13, 2020

Meeting Location: Grand Junction City Hall Auditorium

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Byron Wiehe

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Joe Brown, Parks Supervisor, Horticulture, Irrigation, Turf
Ron Felt, Parks Supervisor, Facilities
Ciara DePinto, Senior Administrative Assistant – Marketing

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

Item 2: Approve Minutes from the July 9, 2020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

Gary Schroen made motion to amend the minutes reflecting the correct next meeting date of August 13. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

Motion to amend minutes by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 3: Presentation by Ron Felt on Parks and Recreation's Facilities Division

Ron Felt, Parks Supervisor, presented an overview of the Facilities Division to the Board. He talked about the different areas the division takes care of throughout the city and what tasks staff members oversee every day. Ron explained how the division has been divided for crew members to maintain the River District (from Eagle Rim to Dos Rios) and the rest of the parks throughout Grand Junction. The Facilities division takes care of all restrooms, shelters, and playgrounds. During Summer 2020, this division staffed five full-time employees and three seasonal employees. The Facilities Division has been involved in various recent projects including installing a new playground at Sherwood Park in early spring of 2020, installing LED lights to save energy, and updating signage to accurately reflect park rules. Ken Sherbenou commented on how having the Facilities Division install the new playground at Sherwood Park, saved Grand Junction Parks and Recreation around \$50,000 by using in house expertise.

Item 4: Founders Colony Update

Ken Sherbenou showed the board an plan for the Founders Colony park. The park will have a playground, picnic area, and will connect with the trail along Leach Creek.

Item 5: Dos Rios GOCO Grant and Groundbreaking Ceremony

Ken Sherbenou provided the Board with an overview of the 40 acres of developable land at Dos Rios. Ken shared with the board that there is \$50,000 in the budget for a playground structure. Additionally, there is a GOCO Resilient Community Grant, to help communities recover from COVID-19, for around \$500,000 to help fund the rest of the playground at Dos Rios. The grant is due in October 2020. Ken Sherbenou reminded the Board about the Dos Rios Groundbreaking happening on Monday, August 17 at 9 a.m. William Findlay made a motion to proceed with the GOCO grant for developments at Dos Rios. The motion was seconded by Gary Schroen and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by Parks and Recreation Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 6: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update

Ken Sherbenou updated the Board on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. A preliminary survey conducted after the first round of public meetings included 339 responses. The statistically valid survey will be sent out to 6,000 households and a version will be shared through multiple communication outlets. The consultant group, GreenPlay, will visit Grand Junction in October to share the survey results and the Master Plan should be finalized in December and shared with City Council for adoption.

Item 7: Ballot Proposal for Tobacco/Vaping Tax

Ken Sherbenou informed the Board of a potential ballot proposal for a tobacco/vaping tax on the November 2020 ballot. Councilman Pe’a shared with the board that the original ask was for a \$4 tax increase on tobacco/vaping products but has been reduced to an increase of \$1-\$2. If the ballot proposal gets approved the revenue could be a source of funding for the Parks and Recreation Department. Gary Schroen made a motion to support the increase in taxes for the tax on tobacco/vaping if the funds go towards supporting Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department. The motion was seconded by William Findlay and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 8: Reopening Parks and Recreation

Ken Sherbenou talked with the Board about the progress made on reopening Parks and Recreation. On August 4, CHSAA made the decision that the only high school sports allowed this fall are boys golf, boys tennis, softball, and cross country. Grand Junction Parks and Recreation has postponed girls’ basketball, adult volleyball, and flag football until the spring season. The Lincoln Park Pool will close on September 27 and the Orchard Mesa Pool will open on September 28.

Item 9: Elect Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Officers

Gary Schroen made a motion to approve Bill Findlay as the new Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Marc Litzen and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Gary Schroen made a motion to approve Marc Litzen as Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Beau Flores and carried unanimously.

Motion approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 10: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:19 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 3, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ciara DePinto
Senior Administrative Assistant - Marketing