

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – April 1, 2021

Meeting Location: Virtual – Via Go To Meeting

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Marc Litzen

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

Meeting called to order by William Findlay at 12:01 p.m.

Approve Minutes from the March 4, 2021 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Byron Wiehe made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4 meeting. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Vacancies

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that there are three vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for terms beginning in July. Two are for existing board members whose terms are ending (they are eligible to reapply) and one is for the seat vacated by Nick Allen in mid-2020. Gary Schroen advised the board that he has reapplied. Marc Litzen has advised staff that his schedule has changed and he will not be applying for another term.

Stadium Improvement Committee

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about a committee that has been formed to work on execution of the Stadium Master Plan. The members are from entities (JUCO, CMU and the City) that have pledged additional funds with the refinancing of the COP. The committee is talking about adjusting some of the priorities that were initially laid out in the master plan. Reprioritization suggestions include delaying outfield replacement (considering conversion to artificial), the endzone electrical replacement, and the adjustments to the ticketing and entrance of the stadium. Perkins + Will was recommended to Council as the architect for the project.

Most of the 2 – 4 year priorities will be addressed. Some of the longer-term improvements are more specific to the Grand Junction Rockies, and it is the hope of the committee that the Rockies will be able to contribute funds in the future to fund some of those improvements.

Canyon View Light Replacement

The lights were installed with the original construction of the park in 1996. Staff have interviewed three firms and have three more firms to go. The Board inquired about the ability to add additional lighting to the park. Though there is demand, it was not part of the scope of this particular project.

American Rescue Plan Funding

The City will be receiving \$11.7M of funding from the American Rescue plan. Parks and Recreation is submitting ideas, mostly based on the PROS plan. Parks and Recreation also has ideas for projects that will cost more than \$11.7M but also have a great community impact. Gary Schroen suggested a spreadsheet be created with the projects outlined in the PROS plan, similar to the spreadsheet in use by the Stadium Improvement committee, that outlines near, mid and longer term projects so that the board can see the bigger picture when making recommendations to Council.

Dos Rios Park Update

The 58 acres that the City is selling is scheduled to close next month. The park will be constructed in the area of the bicycle playground and includes a new restroom shelter. The plan is to have the park amenities open by the fall of 2021. Board members inquired if there was room for expansion of the bicycle playground. Ken shared with that board that the original design includes a third more advanced line that can be built out. Board members asked if Jen Taylor could be invited to a future meeting of the board to talk more about Dos Rios.

Veterans Park

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that the owner of the land known as Dixson park sold the property and the new owner preferred to sell the land either to the City or for redevelopment. The City has been working with the County to counterbalance the loss of that space on Orchard Mesa and has come to an agreement with the County for the operation of Veterans Park which is adjacent to the BMX track at the Fairgrounds. This park actually has two times the field space of Dixson, so in addition to the historical users of Dixson, the school district may also consider shifting some activity to this park. Board members would like a future meeting at Veterans park so they may become familiar with the area.

Future Meetings

Board members discussed a general sense of tiredness with virtual meetings. The Lowell Village agenda item for the May meeting will be a virtual presentation, board members suggested meeting in person in the Hospitality Suite with a virtual option available (for both the presenter and any board members who find this option more convenient). Board members also remarked on the benefit of having meetings at park sites and would like to meet at a park location in June.

For the Good of the Community

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that 20% of the tree canopy are ash trees. Staff are treating ash trees above 20” in diameter to help protect the trees for up to 3 years. The forestry division received \$26,000 from the City insurance claim for mitigation of the storm damage to the tree canopy, and an additional \$4,000 grant from Xcel energy.

Future Agenda Topics

Jen Taylor

Update on Burkey Park

Item 7: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:02 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 6, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little

Administrative Specialist