

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – July 15, 2021

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cindy Enos-Martinez
William Findlay
Phil Pe'a
Gary Schroen
Nancy Strippel
Michelle Vion
Lisa Whalin

Board Members Absent: Austin Solko
Byron Wiehe

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

Guests Present: Kyle Gardner

Meeting called to order by William Findlay at 12:03 p.m.

Kyle Gardner will be officially appointed to the Board at the July 21, 2021 City Council Meeting filling the unexpired vacancy left by Beau Flores resignation.

Community Center

Ken Sherbenou reminded the board of the upcoming City Council Workshop session to revisit the idea of a community center. As new board members have been added since the last time the board talked about this, Ken gave a recap of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. That plan identified a community center as the top priority for the community. There were 3000 community members engaged in the master plan process. There has been much discussion around the best location for a community center as well as its size and amenities. Since the plan (and corresponding feasibility study) was completed Glacier Ice Arena has been purchased and the new owner is committed to continuing to operate it as an ice rink. Phase One of the Community Center plan would be about 80,000 square feet. By comparison the Fruita Recreation Center is 43,000 square feet with an additional 7,000 square feet for the Library.

Phase One components do not include the therapy pool, aerobics studio, bouldering wall, multi-purpose rooms, indoor play areas, partner space, or the catering/teaching kitchen. The feasibility study projected the construction cost at \$65 million with ice, and \$58 million without. Phase One costs are projected at \$45 million with about 65% cost recovery expected. Funding sources available would be anticipated marijuana taxation revenue (projected at about \$3 million/year), grant funding, or new tax (which would need to be approved by voters) on tobacco and/or vaping products.

Board members wondered if data could be gathered about why citizens prefer one location over another and if there is another site that wasn't suggested in the previous feasibility study that could be considered. Board members expressed a strong desire for any future center to be accessible for as many neighborhoods as possible, particularly those currently underserved by recreation amenities. Matchett Park is not accessible for the Riverside neighborhood and, also, Riverside isn't accessible for folks in northern neighborhoods. Board members wondered if a new feasibility study could flesh out a third site that would be more centrally located, such as Doug Jones Sawmill. Board members voiced concern that building only Phase One would cause the center to be underbuilt for community needs before its first day of operation and wondered how to balance this particular community need with so many other needs which already exist on the capital improvement project list.

Nancy Strippel made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board advise City Council of their strong support for a community center and their concern about a number of unanswered questions regarding location, size of build, and community support for a tax on vaping products to support the cost of the project. The Board further recommends exploring those questions via survey in 2022. The Board strongly supports continued financial support of other Parks and Recreation capital projects. The motion was seconded by Cindy Enos Martinez and carried unanimously

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

Item 7: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little
Administrative Specialist