

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – September 2, 2021

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Phil Pe'a
Gary Schroen
Austin Solko
Nancy Strippel
Michele Vion
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez

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

Meeting called to order by William Findlay at 12:02 p.m.

Approve Minutes from the August 5, 2021 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Michele Vion made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5 meeting. The motion was seconded by Kyle Gardner and carried unanimously.

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

Firework Shows at Lincoln Park

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the Listening Session staff held in July to hear feedback about firework shows at Lincoln Park. For the 2021 dates, the City was responsible for one show with all other shows being put on by users of the facility (one each for JUCO and CMU and 6 by the Grand Junction Rockies). Concerns were raised about how the noise affects neighbors, pets, and veterans as well as about the timing of the shows (late start times in particular). After the 4hour and 40 minute baseball game on the July fourth, the Grand Junction Rockies adjusted the start times of firework games to 5pm and JUCO is also looking at amending their schedule so that the last game on Memorial Day starts earlier. Staff were asked about laser shows (which are four to five times more expensive than traditional fireworks and require electric capacity which does not currently exist at Suplezio Field). Staff are considering increasing the shell size requirement. Larger shells explode higher in the sky so the sound is further from the ground and there is less reverberation. There were 500 responses to the electronic survey which indicated strong support for Memorial Day and Fourth of July fireworks. About 80% of respondents found 10:30pm to be an acceptable start time. Board members recommended setting a curfew for firework show start times and supported reducing the total number of shows authorized each year.

Dos Rios Design

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that Dos Rios park is rapidly progressing. The park has been hydroseeded and trees have been planted. A budget for additional amenities was created during the sale negotiations. Staff are still in discussions about placement of a splash pad or a destination playground. There will be a pedestrian bridge from the train station to the park. Board members wondered about adding amenities such as a splash pad when the region is suffering such severe drought. Any future splash pad would be recirculating and thus water loss would be minimized.

Las Colonias Landscape Improvements

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that staff is in the midst of landscape improvements in the Las Colonias Plaza area. They are installing undulating turf with a secret passage between. Additionally staff is working on improvements to the dog park area, and installing shade structures.

Horizon Park Master Plan

Ken Sherbenou informed the board that the City will be undertaking a concept master plan process for Horizon Park. Architerra Group has been awarded the project. Horizon Park is located behind Fire Station 6 and will be a destination park like Sherwood or Eagle Rim. Implementation of this master plan will be funded separately, as part of the capital improvement program.

Community Center Survey

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that staff have received direction from Council to continue working towards an additional survey around a future Community Center. Staff are hoping to have the survey out in 2021 and April 2023 has been mentioned as a possible date for any ballot measure.

Stadium Update

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the Stadium renovation project. Stands will be replaced along the third base line, with chair backs installed behind home plate. This replacement allows for many infrastructure improvements underneath the stands. Council authorized a \$2.5 million loan to address the northwest and southwest entries to Stocker, enlarge the sidewalk for increased safety on 12th Street. Staff are also working on a multipurpose area which will primarily be used by CMU football, but which will also have some multipurpose space.

IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) Schools

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about six school sites which have IGAs with the City to allow dual use (Pomona Elementary, Wingate Elementary, Pear Park Elementary, Chipeta Elementary, East Middle School and Bookcliff Middle School). The School District desires to install fencing around the school grounds to close it off from the public. Staff is concerned this would signal to the public that they are not welcome during off-school hours. Board members wondered about additional signage that would indicate the public is welcome during non-school hours. Bill Findlay mentioned that Chipeta elementary has a similar situation, but the gate is often locked so the public is prevented from accessing the school during non-school hours. Nancy Strippel made a motion that the City work with School District 51 to determine public open hours and place signage at all IGA schools so that these areas remain clearly open to the public during off-school hours. The motion was seconded by Michele Vion and carried unanimously.

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

For the Good of the Community

No items

Future Agenda Topics

The board would like to hear more about the Redlands Tail Race and have an update on the Orchard Mesa Pool situation.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little
Administrative Specialist