

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Special Meeting – December 15, 2020

Meeting Location: Virtual – Via Go To Meeting

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay
Marc Litzen
Phil Pe'a
Gary Schroen
Austin Solko
Nancy Strippel (arrived after minute approval)
Lisa Whalen
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Beau Flores

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 November 5, and December 3, 2020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meetings.

Lisa Whalen made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5 and December 3 meetings. The motion was seconded by Gary Schroen and carried unanimously.

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

Stadium Renovation: Letter of Support

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that City Council approved the refinance of the Certificate of Participation (COP) to extend the term to 2044. This will generate savings on the interest and that coupled with increased payments from the City and Colorado Mesa will help create the funding for the project. Renovations included in the Stadium master plan include improved entry and flow for the complex, and addition of IT and electrical improvements. Suplezio improvements include adding chair backed seating behind home plate and down the third base line as well as drainage repairs and outfield replacement. First phase improvements to Stocker include moving the entrance to Stocker Stadium further south so the entry flow is increased and no longer restricted to the sidewalk on 12th Street. Board members asked about long-term contracts in place at the Stadium. JUCO has extended their contract until 2044 and discussions are happening with the Grand Junction Rockies who are planning and preparing for a 2021 season. Gary Schroen made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board craft a letter supporting future grant applications to fund the Stadium Master Pan projects. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

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

PROS Master Plan Consideration

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the PROS Master Plan. This plan is separate from the Stadium Master plan and also includes the execution of a feasibility study for the amenity that was indicated as the biggest gap in the Parks and Recreation system. Though included as a part of the master plan process, the actual study is a separate document. The final plan appears before council on January 6, 2021 for adoption. Austin Solko made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommend the adoption of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Lisa Whalen and carried unanimously.

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

Blue Heron Boat Ramp: Letter of Support

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that the Blue Heron Boat Ramp experienced lots of use over the summer and exposed some severe capacity issues. The current location and grade of the ramp makes it difficult to both put in and take out. The proposed renovation would relocate the ramp up more stream to a more accessible location. The plan also proposes bank stabilization, creation of a pedestrian ramp for putting in (and taking out) tubes and kayaks. Staff is hoping to partially fund the project with a GOCO grant. Lisa Whalen made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board author a letter of supporting grant applications for funding of the Blue Heron Boat Ramp project. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

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

Feasibility Study Update

Councilor Pe'a shared with the board that a community center was identified as the number one need and City Council looked at a draft of the feasibility study in a Council Workshop. Funding is a major concern for the Council. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that the floor plan drives the project cost and once the amenities are narrowed down construction and operation costs as well as potential revenue will be able to be estimated. Currently staff are exploring non sales tax options for funding. The Board reviewed two potential floor plans, one includes a sheet of ice and once includes more gymnasium space, but no ice. Board members inquired about placing a community center in Lincoln Park versus at Matchett and about building new ice versus purchasing the existing Glacier Ice Arena which is for sale. Lincoln Park came back strongly in the Master Plan survey due to its central location and saves much of the infrastructure costs which would be required to build at Matchett Park. The existing ice arena has been evaluated and the equipment is outdated and the location is not as central as Lincoln Park. Board members indicated they were aware of a non-profit group who was fundraising to be able to take over the operation of the ice arena and the Board indicated a strong desire to not undermine non-profit operation of Glacier Ice Arena. Gary Schroen made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board support building of a community center with amenities to be determined, including the possibility of ice; funded with a marijuana/vaping ballot initiative. The motion was seconded by Marc Litzen and carried unanimously.

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

Single Track Trails Naming

Ken Sherbenou shared with the Board a map of newly created single track trails adjacent to the existing Riverfront Trail. Board members indicated a desire to have Parks and Recreation staff and the public be involved in the naming of the new trails. Proposed names could be circulated via email and social media for a vote.

For the Good of the Community

Item 6: Future Agenda Topics

Item 7: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:26 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 7, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Little
Administrative Specialist