

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – July 11, 2013

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Dr. Scott McBrayer at 12:02 p.m.

Meeting Location: Lincoln Park – Elm Shelter

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Dr. Scott McBrayer
Scott Coleman
Kristy Emerson
Marc Litzen
Jim Doody (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: David McInay

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Schoeber, Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent
Emily Wright, Recreation Supervisor

Guests: Ken Walters

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Scott Coleman moved to approve the June 6, 2013 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Marc Litzen seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Motion adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

Item 3: STARS Overview

Rob Schoeber introduced Recreation Supervisor Emily Wright, who oversees the STARS program offered through the department. The primary goal of the program is to fill a need in the community that was not being met by the private sector. The STARS program was developed in 1997, at which time a strong community need for a school age summer camp was identified. Over the past 16 years the camp has grown from a two day a week program to a five day a week program hosted at four different locations (East Middle School, Orchard Mesa Middle School, Wingate Elementary School and Bookcliff Middle School). The 10 week - summer only program provides child care to a wide variety of children with a large focus on foster care families and/or special needs children.

The STARS program is a licensed camp through the State of Colorado and is audited by the state on a regular basis. All STARS staff members are required to undergo fingerprinting and full background checks and then must attend 40 hours of training before having any contact with the kids. The training consists of basic childcare and discipline, as well as CPR and the ability to administer medications.

The program can accept up to 270 children per week, averaging 255 kids per week this year. Emily Wright discussed the fact there are multiple differences between the STARS program and local daycares. One main

difference is that STARS does not provide any transportation, as the parents are required to drop the children off at different locations (school site, park, movie theater, etc.) throughout the summer. Parents are well informed of this expectation when registering for the program and receive weekly calendars indicating the exact location they are to drop off and/or pick up their children (See attached example). There are also numerous activities that require the parents to send extra money with their kids, such as movies, ice cream, field trips, etc.

The camp provides two snacks daily per licensing requirements; however, does not provide lunch. The program does have the option of taking advantage of the School District's summer free lunch program (six weeks only) held at Chipeta Elementary School, and occasionally will for the kids that are located near the site that day. Otherwise, the children are required to bring their own lunch every day. The program is expected to cover all direct costs (seasonal labor, operational expenses, licensing fees, etc.) while limiting profits. The program is also required to pay all costs, such as pool admission, activity admission fees, field trips, etc.; however, is able to utilize the school facilities due to the existing IGA's with Mesa County School District 51. Since 2009, the Recreation Department has made a concerted effort to bring the fees as close to private market rates as possible without generating excessive revenues and/or financially stressing the participants.

While the registered kids come from affluent, middle income, and at risk households, STARS scholarships make up over \$12,000 of the department's \$35,000 annual scholarship budget. Emily Wright stated the major concern with the program facing increased rates and/or cancellation is related to how it would directly impact the middle class families. Staff's concern is that these parents would be forced to leave their kids at home alone. The Board members discussed what a great service the STARS program has been and that it continues to fill a great "need" in our community. The Board expressed their support for the program and suggested the staff create an informational pamphlet with a clear mission statement, as well as talking points listing the specific reasons why STARS is "different" from daycare facilities. The reasons should include: 1) Not year round (summer program only), 2) No transportation, 3) No lunches, 4) Cost neutral, 5) Specific age group: 1st – 8th graders only, 6) Camp atmosphere focusing on "recreational/physical activities" versus a daycare setting, 7) Ability to take on special needs children, 8) Low income families, and 9) STARS continues to meet a strong need in the community that is not being met by the private sector.

Emily Wright said the program strives to remain cost efficient without directly competing with any local daycares. She stated she is contacted every year by the Mesa County Department of Human Services requesting STARS to participate in Mesa County's Department of Human Services Childcare Assistance Program (program that the County pays the cost for daycare if the families use the providers on their list), yet she continues to decline to avoid competing with the private sector.

Item 4: Las Colonias Update

City Council has approved the revised master plan for Las Colonias Park, which puts the City in a great position for moving forward with development. The park will be developed in phases based on funds availability and staff is already working to reduce major costs wherever possible. It was suggested staff market the project using photos of the original junk yard that was once located on the property to show the public just how far the property has come and where it is headed with future development.

Item 5: Project Updates

The Lincoln Park tennis courts project is currently under way, as well as the new parking area. Mays Concrete will be pouring concrete sometime in the next two weeks. At this time, the pickleball group has raised approximately \$3,000 for benches, etc. The track overlay project is also in progress, with the track scheduled to be reopened by July 22, 2013. All access to Lincoln Park will be closed August 12, 13, and 14 for chip sealing. The golf course and swimming pool will remain open during this time. Eight of the horseshoe pits have been relocated to Canyon View Park, with eight more scheduled for installation next year. Traci Wieland stated the local horseshoe club has been tremendously helpful, donating both their time and money to the process.

The RFP for Matchett Park will go out on July 17, 2013 and staff intends to get started with the public participation process sometime in October. Traci Wieland thanked Kristy Emerson and Scott Coleman for attending the public meeting, stating they did a fantastic job diffusing the situation and truly “listening” to the neighborhood’s comments and concerns.

Item 6: For the Good of the Community

Scott Coleman expressed concern regarding the slow elevator at the stadium, reporting it took him nearly two hours to assist some individuals with challenges in getting down from the spectator level. During this particular game, a vendor on the hospitality level was using the elevator for over an hour to haul their merchandise. Discussion ensued regarding the issue, including the suggestion of examining the floor “priority” level when the elevator buttons are selected. Another option could be to assign someone a key to sporadically lock out floors to assist in getting people down faster. Rob Schoeber briefly discussed the need for a back-up generator at the stadium in case of a power outage.

It was reported there is a bad speaker on the third base line. Discussion also ensued regarding the new crosswalk on 12th Street and the need for a warning signal, as it has been routinely observed that traffic is not stopping for the pedestrians.

Item 7: Adjourn


Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist



Tween

Monday June 24	Tuesday June 25	Wednesday June 26	Thursday June 27	Friday June 28
<p>Please Pack A Lunch</p> <p>Parents Drop Off: Shelledy Elementary School Fruita ~ 353 N. Mesa Street</p> <p>Snow Cone Downtown Fruita Please bring \$2 for a snow cone</p>  <p>Relax at the Fruita Recreation Center</p> <p>Parents Pick Up: Fruita Recreation Center 324 N. Coulson Street</p>	<p>Please Pack A Lunch</p> <p>Parents Drop Off: Chick-fil-A ~ We will walk to the Self Defense class at 8:15am</p> <p>Self Defense Class 2493 Highway 6 & 50</p>  <p>Parents Pick Up: Pomona Elementary School 588 25 1/2 Road</p>	<p>Please Pack A Lunch</p> <p>Parents Drop Off: Regal Cinema Movie Theatre Monie Carlo</p> <p>Day at the Movies! Please send your child with \$1 for the movie</p>  <p>Parents Pick Up: Mesa Mall Scavenger Hunt ~ Option to eat lunch at Mesa Mall ~ Canyon View Park</p>	<p>Pack A Sack Lunch</p> <p>Parents Drop Off: Lincoln Park Ash Shelter Visit the Colorado National Monument</p>  <p>Bus leaves at 8:00am SHARP Devils Kitchen Work in CMU computer room on projects</p> <p>Parents Pick Up: Lincoln Park Pool</p>	<p>Please Pack A Lunch</p> <p>Parents Drop Off: Mav Pad at Colorado Mesa University ~ Large white tent on campus</p>  <p>Swimming at Lincoln Park Pool</p> <p>Parents Pick Up: Lincoln Park Pool</p>

Parent Notes:

- For Wednesday, please send your camper with \$1 for the movie.
- We are continually applying sun screen to your children during the day, but we could use your help in applying sun screen to your children before they leave home each morning.

4th of July Celebration Information: Then enjoy the best fireworks display in Grand Junction. Tickets are on sale today at the Parks and Recreation Office. Gates open at 7:15pm; Boogie Machine will start playing at 8:00pm with fireworks at 9:45pm.

How to contact STARS staff:
 Tween Site Camp Phone: 260-2503
 Camp Supervisor Emily Wright: 254-3875
 Parks and Recreation Office: 254-3866