

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **Regular Meeting – April 7, 2022**

Meeting Location: Barn – Lincoln Park

### **Roll Call**

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

Board Members Absent:

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor Forestry and Open Space  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

**Meeting called to order by William Findlay at 12:05 p.m.**

### **Approve Minutes from the March 3, 2022 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Lisa Whalin made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Kyle Gardner and carried unanimously.

Motion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 9 No 0

### **Parks Supervisor Presentation – Rob Davis**

Rob Davis talked with the Board about his area of supervision. Recently Rob worked with a company to do a tree canopy assessment. This assessment shows \$30M in annual savings based on stormwater runoff reduction, air quality improvement and 166,000 tons of carbon sequestered. Rob showed the board the tree canopy website. In general there is 11% canopy cover in Grand Junction and the recommendation is 25% canopy cover. (For comparison, Phoenix has a 25% canopy cover.) The website further breaks down the canopy cover by land use, which shows where canopy is low or decreasing. The website will also calculate what is required to raise canopy coverage. For example, raising schools coverage from 5% to 10% would take 750 trees. Tools such as this help staff make data driven recommendations. Board members wondered what specific forestry goals are in place. Rob explained that part of the PROS master plan recommendations include creating an urban forestry master plan which will be a great vehicle for formalizing department forestry goals. There are nearly 250,000 trees in Grand Junction which are worth nearly \$1.1B. 75% of those trees are on private property leaving about 58,000 trees on public property. City Forestry Crews work through a seasonal rotation of winter removals, spring plantings, summer pruning, followed by fall plantings and share some numbers for trees pruned, planted and removed. Currently staff is removing more trees than are being planted. Rob

shared that Forestry would like the opposite to be true, however a large number of removals are required due to lack of water. Rob showed the board a number of forestry quick links which are available on the City website. Board members wondered why tree care companies are required to be licensed when operating in the City of Grand Junction. Rob advised the board that tree care work is one of the most dangerous professions. City licensing ensures that tree care companies are holding the proper insurance and have demonstrated that they meet the industry standard for professional knowledge around tree care and tree work.

Rob talked with the Board about the City's private ash treatment program. 23% of the inventory is ash trees. There are over 3,000 public ash trees which the City began treating last summer. The ash program is designed to have a vendor (T4 trees) treat private trees with the cost being shared 50/50 between citizen and the City of Grand Junction. The City portion will be a maximum of \$500 per address. This treatment program should protect trees for 2 – 3 years. If trees do not qualify for treatment, rebates are available for citizens wanting to replace ash trees with another variety (up to \$100 per rebate, three rebates per household).

Rob talked with the board about plant health care, staff have treated 3.3 million square feet of land with a pre-emergent product that should help keep weeds down in the summer. This will be followed up with a fall application which helps keep down spring weeds. Public Works has taken over weed management in rights of way. Additionally, open space staff are taking care of Kindred Reserve and doing work on Watson Island working to return that to more native space. Staff also take care of the Riverfront Trail system and looking for future opportunities for trail connections and public open space.

### **For the Good of the Community**

Board members wondered about results from the Community Recreation Center survey. Ken Sherbenou advised the board that those results are being shared with Council in an upcoming workshop and will be brought to the May meeting.

Ken Sherbenou gave the board updates on a number of other projects. Staff is pursuing additional design on the Dos Rios splash pad. Responses for the Dos Rios playground are due next Friday. The multi-purpose building that was planned for the south end of Stocker Stadium near the Lincoln Park Barn is on hold. Additionally, staff is pursuing discussions with the companies that expressed interest but did not submit bids on the Pickleball/Tennis project at Lincoln Park.

Board members inquired about the timeline of the zipline installation. Bonsai anticipates completion in mid-summer.

Board members wondered why there is no seating around the pump track at Dos Rios. It's a great place for parents to take their kids, but there is no place to sit and watch.

### **Adjourn**

The board adjourned by acclimation at 1:08pm to a tour of the Stadium construction site.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison Little  
Administrative Specialist