

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – July 7, 2022

Meeting Location: Barn – Lincoln Park

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Byron Wiehe

Guests Present: Kevin Sperry, May Riegler Properties
Craig Bouck, Barker Rinker Seacat

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent
Joe Brown, Parks Supervisor – Horticulture, Irrigation, and Turf
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Meeting called to order by William Findlay at 12:06 p.m.

Approve Minutes from the June 9, 2022 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Michele Vion made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Schroen and carried unanimously.

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

Community Recreation Center Workshop Preliminary Outline

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that City Council approved Matchett as the preferred site for a future Community Recreation Center (CRC), and thanked the board for their strong attendance at the City Council meeting. Ken talked with the board about the next steps in the planning process. There are two options for funding; a smaller (~\$55M) facility which could be funded by cannabis and a nicotine tax or a larger (~\$70M) facility which would be funded by cannabis and a .15% sales tax. Board members wondered whether a third option might include three funding options. Two funding options (plus cannabis) require more complex ballot questions and there is a desire to keep the ballot as simple for the voters as possible.

Craig Bouck advised the board that the primary point of the workshop is introducing the two options, explaining how the funding works, is tied to each building program, and how each building program is related to the survey information. The emphasis is not on building design but how they could fit on the site. Board members wondered how amenities were chosen. Craig shared that staff and Barker Rinker Seacat staff have made preliminary choices based on data collected over the past surveys. The most recent survey is weighted most heavily. Board members also wondered if there is an option for a design that plans for a future addition. Board members commented that this will be a recreation center in the middle of a farm and wondered how the rest of the park will get built. Ken Sherbenou reminded the Board that Canyon View Park provides a good model for building a large project such as this. The first phase of building really helped generate excitement and show need which was leveraged to continue building future phases of that park. A similar plan would be used to achieve the full Matchett Park master plan.

Dos Rios Presentation

Ken Sherbenou introduced Kevin Sperry of May Riegler properties. They are the partner in the public/private partnership that is developing the public amenities of Dos Rios. Kevin talked with the group about the Dos Rios development whose first phase of construction is underway. The developer intends to create a destination space that becomes one of the must-see attractions in Grand Junction. There will be a wide range of uses and sees the public spaces as one of the most important ones. Other uses include river access, retail, restaurants, residential, office space, and a hotel. Construction has begun on the first 56 three-story town homes. The whole development is designed to be low slung and spread out with vacation vibe. Much of the retail space will be along the water. Parking will be nearer to Riverside Parkway with the rest of the development very pedestrian focused. Board members wondered if a bridge connection over the railroad yard to downtown was still in the plans. Kevin shared with the board that this feature is still in the design and they have planned an art walk to begin where the bridge lands. This bridge is a part of the City's mobility hub work though it is not included in the current grant request.

Supervisor Presentation – Joe Brown – Horticulture, Irrigation, and Turf (HIT)

Joe Brown introduced himself to the board and explained that the HIT team takes care of rights of way, neighborhood parks, downtown planting beds. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that as a horticultural specialist, Joe has really broadened the depth of knowledge in the department and increased our plantings, as well as in-house grown plants since he joined the team in mid-2020. Joe shared a map of horticulture areas throughout the city which is currently focused on downtown and working on expanding towards and through the River District (Las Colonias and Dos Rios in particular).

In 2020 Horticulture averaged 2875 plants purchased and grown. In 2021 the team planted 10,000 plants and in 2022 the team planted 22,199 plants, most of which were grown in house. The turf and irrigation team is newly combined. Green infrastructure provides character, gray infrastructure is functional. Irrigation is the backbone of that green infrastructure which dresses up the city. Without irrigation our turf fails, plants fail, and our urban canopy fails. The turf and irrigation team addressed 95% of identified breaks in 2021. In 2022 they are continuing to audit properties so that all sprinklers are being evaluated and cleaned every 2 weeks.

This year the HIT team has renovated the Lincoln Park entrance and marquee area, created the space near the new Bear statue at the old bandstand, renovated downtown beds, Columbine Park, Canyon View softball, Chipeta elementary, the east bed at City Hall, and areas of Las Colonias. In 2023 planned renovations include the park operations building, Hawthorne Park, the 12th street roundabout, pyramid island (on Patterson near 25 road), 8th and Main Ave, the Lincoln Park Rose Garden, Riverside Parkway and Hale Ave, and the Horizon interchange. Board members commented on the native plantings at the

Lunch loops and how they look better and better the more they grow in. Board members wondered about plans for replacing non-utilized turf. Joe shared with the board that staff is currently working on plans for turf to native conversions such as Desert Vista and Lilac Park. Noting that it is important to balance the removal of turf with water-wise native plantings and continuing to provide water to the vital tree canopy in those areas.

2023 Proposed CIP Projects

This item was tabled.

Bill Findlay advised the board that officers would be elected in August. Bill is term limited and will not be able to serve another term as Chair. Gary Shroen mentioned that the bylaws provide for the board to have sub-committees. If PRAB were to create a CRC sub-committee Bill could continue to lead this work while the board elects a new Chairperson for the upcoming year. Bill highlighted the participation of Nancy Strippel the current Vice Chair. Nancy declined the nomination for Chair citing the difficulty of running meetings virtually.

For The Good of the Community

Board members inquired about the timing of the installation of the Dos Rios playground. Ken Sherbenou advised the board that there is a 20-week lead time, and then installation. Staff is hopeful for completion by the end of the year.

Adjourn

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:31pm

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be August 4, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist