

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – August 4, 2022

Meeting Location: Barn – Lincoln Park

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Nancy Strippel
Michele Vion

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

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

Approve Minutes from the August 4, 2022 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Cindy Enos Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

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

Dos Rios Splash Park

The City has contracted with Waterline Studios for the design who have created a splash pad mimicking a river which will spread out use by creating different pockets of water. More still waters will be found at the head and the feature becomes more active as you move 'downstream.' This feature will be a shallow, non-lifeguarded area and surrounding landscaping will honor local natural areas. Board members encouraged the design to include space for families to spread out adjacent to the feature. Board members wondered if there would be conflicts between splash pad and trail users and suggested a split rail fence to help separate the two kinds of traffic.

Board members wondered about the weed enforcement in the Dos Rios area. Parks staff have addressed the weeds on City property, and Code enforcement is working to address the weeds on privately owned land.

Board members also raised concerns about issues with the unhoused occupying the park and preventing or making other citizens feel uncomfortable in the park areas. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that this is an issue staff are dealing with all over the city. The more activated parks are with positive uses the less comfortable a park is for undesirable uses. The building of this splash pad and playground are designed to keep the Dos Rios area activated with positive uses.

Orchard Mesa Pool Renovation

Ken Sherbenou updated the board on the proposed renovation of the Orchard Mesa Pool. City staff are still in conversations with the current partners and hope that they will contribute to the renovations as well. Staff are also holding meetings with the RFP respondents to select a design firm. The supplemental budget proposal that will be presented to Council includes the funds for this design. Board members wondered about additional funds in this supplemental designation to build out community space. Is there an opportunity for the City to take over the abandoned gymnasium building from the School District? Ken Sherbenou shared that staff have asked for an add alternate proposal to include the gymnasium space. The gymnasium will be a full rebuild as the floor has buckled and can not be repaired.

Gary Schroen made a motion to recommend refurbishment of the Orchard Mesa Pool with supplemental budget appropriation and consider future additional development of gymnasium building. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

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

Unhoused in Parks

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board more extensively about the unhoused in the parks. Staff are recognizing an increased presence. The City provides a lot of essential services (restrooms and access to clean water, for example) that are very important to that segment of our population. Staff have modified the electricity available at Whitman Park so that folks may charge their cell phones.

City staff also recognize our obligation to make sure that parks are welcoming and comfortable for all segments of our population. Similar to the activation of Dos Rios, staff are working to activate other parks, including proposing a destination playground in Hawthorne in 2023.

Parks and Recreation has contracted with a business for the cleaning of some our most problematic restrooms. This helps with seasonal staff morale and retention and staff are working more closely with the police department when staff recognize people sleeping in parks and asking for police enforcement of the no camping ordinance.

Additionally, staff are proposing to partner with the DDA to replace the 5th street restroom (due to increasing incidents of vandalism) with a self-cleaning restroom which has seen success in other communities.

2023 CIP projects

Ken Sherbenou reminded the board about the process of ranking of future CIP projects which they undertook for the 2022 budget process. Many of those projects were (or will be) completed in 2022. The proposed projects in 2023 include, Botanic Gardens master plan and greenhouse build, Emerson skate park construction, continued CPTED (Crime prevention with environmental design) improvements, replacement of the Lincoln Park Pool boiler and re-plaster of the pool, improvements to downtown (Main Street) electrical for holiday lighting and special events, and irrigation system replacement at Westlake (one of the oldest irrigations systems in the inventory).

Board members observed there is nothing proposed for Open Space Development and reminded that there is more and more research about the value and health benefits of Open Space.

Board members also asked about the Redlands Tailrace River Park. Ken Sherbenou shared this would be a 2024 project in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife using the Redlands Power water canal for a higher end water park with five features. Board members asked for a more in-depth discussion on a future agenda.

CRC Special Committee

Gary Schroen shared that the bylaws indicate that a special sub-committee can be created to accommodate projects as desired by the board. If a Community Recreation Center (CRC) committee was created, Bill Findlay could be elected to chair that committee. Bill shared his willingness to continue chairing a CRC sub-committee until the board turns the work over to an election committee.

Board Elections

Lisa Whalin advised the board that she and Michele Vion talked about co-chairing the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board since the board is so busy with the Community Recreation Center proposal and all the regular board business. Board members commented that the existing office of Vice Chair, already identified in the bylaws could act as a co-chair. Bill Findlay shared that Nancy Strippel is willing to continue to be the vice chair, or step aside.

Gary Schroen made a motion that Lisa Whalin be elected the Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Kyle Gardner and carried unanimously

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

Gary Schroen made a motion that Michele Vion be elected Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Lisa Whalin and carried unanimously.

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

Gary Schroen made a motion that Bill Findlay become the Chairperson of a special committee to gather feedback and make recommendations on a proposed Community Recreation Center. This

committee shall be comprised of current Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members. The motion was seconded by Phil Pe'a and carried unanimously.

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

For the Good of the Community

Board members inquired about a status update for the the zipline from Eagle Rim Park to Las Colonias Park. Ken Sherbenou shared that staff have spoken with Bonsai (who is handling the design and construction of the zipline). There have been some engineering issues due to the soil composition, and the project is proceeding, though delayed.

Adjourn

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:28 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be September 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist