

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – September 1, 2022

Meeting Location: Barn – Lincoln Park

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay (after minutes)
Kyle Gardner
Gary Schroen
Austin Solko
Michele Vion
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe
Abe Herman
Phil Pe'a

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez
Nancy Strippel

Guests Present: Jarrod Whelan, River City Consultants
Ryan Goodman
Stephanie Black

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent, P&R
Daniella Acosta, Senior Planner, Community Development
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist, P&R

Meeting called to order by William Findlay at 12:04 p.m.

Approve Minutes from the August 4, 2022 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
As Councilor Pe'a is not a voting member, he should not second motions. Byron Wiehe seconded the motion from August 4 that appointed Bill Findlay to Chair the Special CRC committee.

Austin Solko made a motion to approve the minutes from the August meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Gary and carried unanimously.

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

726 26 Road Wetlands

Daniella Acosta talked with the board about a development application at 726 26 Road. There are wetlands in the area and plans for soft surface trails and connectivity. This area is has a low

density of parks and accepting this land as an open space dedication would create a great space for residents in this area. The Army Corps of Engineers controls wetlands areas and does not allow infringement along the wetlands corridor so there should not be impacts to the area caused by construction. Rob Davis walked this corridor and observed cottonwoods, Russian olive, active moving water, birds, and wildlife. Currently, there is no plan for parking and it is anticipated that users would access via pedestrian or bicycle ways (rather than a drive to destination).

Board members wondered what kind of maintenance issues staff might anticipate. Rob advised the board that typically, the Army Corps prefers the land left as is. Staff would carefully analyze how the soft surface paths are built in and around (without encroaching on) the wetlands area. Even large dead standing trees are an important part of wetlands landscapes where raptors nest.

Board members felt strongly that if accepted as a donation this would remain public open space and not just an area for the neighborhood.

Austin Solko made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory board recommend accepting the land dedication of this wetland area. The motion was seconded by Gary Schroen and carried unanimously.

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

Micro Mobility Update

Daniella Acosta advised the board that staff have been working with City Council to bring vendors of rentable scooters and e bikes, to the city. A request for proposals is open, and Council is considering bringing multiple vendors to town. Once responses are received they will be reviewed for product options, and controls such as geofencing.

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that staff anticipates having restricted parking zones for these scooters. Many cities that were early adopters of similar programs are moving towards restricted parking zones. Parking is required to stop the meter and complete the trip. A public education campaign to introduce the community to the devices and regulations will accompany the roll out. Board members wondered if scooters would be allowed on the Riverfront Trail. Ken advised the board that the plan for the pilot program is to restrict the trail initially while staff gains an understanding of what use and commuter possibilities are realistic for these devices. Board members are invited to a micro mobility focus group on September 13.

GOCO Grant Application

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the GOCO grant application to move towards completing the riverfront trail. Currently the trail is continuous from Kokopelli to Las Colinas. There is a gap from the Eddy development to 29 road where it picks back up and heads the rest of the way to Palisade.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has secured some easements on the properties between the Eddy project and 29 Road and there are continuing conversations about the remainder of the easements. This grant would help build out the trail connection once the easements are secured.

Staff anticipates submitting the grant in February of 2023. Board members shared that they were surprised how far from the river the alignment of the trail through the Eddy project ended up being placed and also that it will be important to consider how trail users will cross 29 Road and including that in the design, if possible.

Child care update

Emily Krause talked with the board about the child care facility. Mesa County is a child care desert with far fewer spaces than the community needs. The building the City has purchased has three rooms and General Services is constructing and addition to build two more rooms. Currently there is a segment of City Staff who continue to work remotely because they do not have childcare. Staff are planning a soft opening for the three pre-existing rooms while construction continues on the addition. Board members wondered if staffing the facility would be an issue. Emily shared with the board that the recruitment for the facility was very successful and five teachers have been hired. Finding teachers aides has been less consistent but staff is working with Colorado Mesa and School District 51 to recruit folks who might be interested in a career in early child education in the future. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that this has been a great example of Council and staff of multiple departments working together to meet a need for City employees which will also free up other spaces in Mesa County.

For the Good of the Community

Gary Schroen shared with the board that there is a lack of signage alerting folks that the trail through the Eddy project is open to the public and currently it looks like private property.

Bill Findlay inquired about the status of the Orchard Mesa Pool. Ken shared with the board that funds were approved in the supplemental budget appropriation and the design request is up for approval. The proposal includes requesting companies submit add alternates for refurbishment of the gymnasium so that Council can choose what options to approve.

Adjourn

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:21 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be October 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist