

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **Regular Meeting – April 6, 2023**

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

### **Roll Call**

Board Members Present: William Findlay  
Kyle Gardner  
Lilly Grisafi  
Gary Schroen  
Austin Solko  
Nancy Strippel  
Lisa Whalin  
Byron Wiehe  
Phil Pe'a

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez  
Abe Herman

Guests Present: Andreyka Krieves, CRC Campaign Chairman

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent  
Rob Davis, City Forester, Open Space Supervisor  
Lance Gloss, Senior Planner  
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

### **Meeting called to order by Lisa Whalin at 12:01 p.m.**

Lilly Grisafi made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

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

### **Urban Forestry Management Plan Presentation**

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that staff would like to have Council vote on a resolution adopting the Urban Forestry Management plan at their April 19 meeting and introduced Lance Gloss who, with Rob Davis and he Forestry board, has put the plan together.

Lance Gloss talked with the Board about the plan and the steps that have been taken to get to this point. In 2019 PlanIt Geo did some baseline canopy assessment of Grand Junction which provided a jumping off point for tree data. Additionally, the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space master plans each called for an urban forestry plan of this nature.

Feedback was sought from community stakeholders, industry experts, the Forestry Board, and the public (via a community survey which had tremendous response and a public meeting). Now the plan is being brought back to the Forestry and Parks and Recreation Advisory Boards for their official support in advance of the City Council meeting on April 19.

This plan aims to combine local expertise and public perspectives into a format that is accessible and useful to staff, providing goals and strategies for moving forward. Tree care is a community wide process as 75% of canopy is on private property. The goals outlined in the plan are to extend the benefits of trees to all residents, invest water in shade, diversify the canopy, care for park and street trees, build public knowledge of tree care, plant and retain trees, and to further integrate trees into decisions. Canopy coverage goals are also addressed. They are an art rather than a science. In this plan canopy coverage goals were set based on land use.

This plan also addresses level of service. Staff have made a lot of progress staying current with work requests staffing up to a third crew could provide the opportunity to engage in a pruning cycle versus based on request. (Planning to prune every tree instead of only pruning the trees of those who know to ask for pruning.)

An important component of the plan are “shovel ready” programs that can help achieve the goals of the plan. Programs include pest monitoring, educational programs, species selection/planting guides, tracking the effects of new landscape regulations, engaging in partnerships wherever possible and considering opt-outs for watering or other equity driven programing. Rob Davis shared with the board that the Forestry Advisory Board is very interested in increasing the education and outreach opportunities they undertake as a board. They are focusing on understanding how to balance education with partnerships so there are multiple ways and places to access quality information about tree planting and care.

Gary Schroen made a motion to recommend the adoption of the Urban Forestry Management Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

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

Rob Davis shared with the board that plans of this nature often cost municipalities \$250,000. Lance’s expertise and dedication have allowed us to create this plan without that expense. The board thanked Lance for his work.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that there will be a meeting for input on design of the Orchard Mesa pool on Tuesday June 6, and asked if the board would prefer to replace the regular meeting or keep both meetings. Additionally, there will be another meeting for that project in August. Knowing that the design of the CRC will also create additional meetings would the board prefer to move their meetings?

The board decided to replace June and August meetings with the Orchard Mesa Pool meetings and have a regular July meeting, reserving the right to modify the schedule again as necessary.

### **Tennis and Pickleball Expansion Project**

Ken Sherbenou updated the board on the tennis and pickleball expansion project. Lighting has been installed at Canyon View and the tennis community is enthusiastic about the changes. The technology has progressed in such a manner that there have been complaints from neighbors regarding the additional lighting. The lighting upgrades are 80% complete at Lincoln Park. Monday the contractor broke ground on the four new tennis courts at Canyon View.

### **Dos Rios Playground, Riverfront Improvements, and Splash Park**

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that the installation of the playground is progressing and should be installed by May. The riverfront area bids came back over budget so staff are working on modifying that project. The splash park should be completed this year as well.

### **Orchard Mesa Pool Study**

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the Orchard Mesa Pool Study. The work is back on track with the consultant and staff have given them direction to look at a number of options for the project (pool only, pool and gym, gym only, etc) The broadened scope will allow for examination of not only what the pool could be, but also what is the most appropriate recreational amenity for that location.

### **Election Debrief**

The board recognized Councilmember Pe'a and his hard work, dedication, commitment, and support of not only Parks and Recreation, but also the community. Andrey Krievs, on behalf of the campaign committee, thanked Phil for his dedication from the beginning, from the cannabis funding to here after the successful ballot initiative to fully fund the construction of a Community Recreation Center. She also took time to applaud the efforts of PRAB in making sure that the process was solid, that the community's voice was heard, that their feedback was considered. She commended the Parks and Recreation advisory board and dedication in keeping this issue at the front and working with City Council.

The board thanked Andrey and the campaign committee for their efforts. It takes a village to get these important projects passed and the Board appreciates all their effort getting a YES vote!

### **Adjourn**

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:32 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be May 4, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Little  
Administrative Specialist