

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – February 2, 2023

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Lilly Grisafi
Gary Schroen
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez
Austin Solko
Phil Pe'a
Abe Herman

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

Guests Present: Jeffrey Fleming – Colorado Land Advisor
Scott Preisendorf – Upland Homes

Meeting called to order by Lisa Whalin at 12:02 p.m.

The Board noted that Lilly Grisafi's name was misspelled throughout the January minutes. Lilly made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

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

Camelback Gardens

Jeffrey Fleming of Colorado Land Advisor talked with the board about the history of the project and the dedications that have preceded this discussion, some of which was deeded to the county and makes up some of what is known as the Ridges Open Space. This development will be marketed towards folks looking for smaller homes with less maintenance requirements freeing up time for hobbies or other activities. Because the dwellings will have limited yard space, the developer wants to ensure open space and common areas are a high-quality amenity for the residents.

The proposal is to swap previously dedicated land for new dedications to accommodate the new development since the plan has changed since the previous design. Daniella Acosta shared with the board that the City Charter prohibits disposing of land but allows exchanging of land as long as what is received is of higher value than what is given away. The developer would be giving 10,100 sq feet of developed parkland with trees grass and irrigation, a trail corridor in either a tract or easement 1650 and 4182 trail corridor as well as improve the trails around the project. City Staff have met with the developer and walked the property. The swap would ensure access and appropriately diverts traffic from private land to public open space areas. This would allow for formalization of trail connections and would include a neighborhood playground for immediate and surrounding residents. As well as residents of the development, folks in the Ridges would benefit as well as others who drive in to use the social trails. Ken Sherbenou shared with the Board that the pedestrian bicycle plan will help make sure all the trails flow and have connectivity as segments are added.

Board members wondered about the soil supporting a developed park. Developers have found some bentonite soil but not an overwhelming amount. Board members also wondered what would happen if the swap was not approved. The developers do have alternative designs that could still meet density and provide trail access (though it would be less access). Board members asked who would maintain the park. Option 1 would be HOA maintain with City Easement. Option 2 would be to dedicate to the City for maintenance. Option 3 would be to dedicate to the City for maintenance with a payment from the HOA to help with costs.

Gary Schroen made a motion to support the land swap as presented for Camelback Gardens with an eye to full trail connectivity, and recommends the HOA undertake the maintenance of the park. The motion was seconded by Kyle and carried unanimously.

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

Urban Forestry Management Plan

Ken introduced Lance Gloss, who is currently in North Carolina completing his Masters Degree, and is working on the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Lance shared that he has been working on this plan with Rob Davis and the Forestry Board. Lance has surveyed a wide range of plans from comparable communities, in terms of population, climate, size scale, etc. A public meeting is scheduled for February 23 to continue to gather community input. The plan aims to understand the resource as it exists, threats and limitations, understanding public input and stakeholders, canopy goals, and implementation items for those goals.

The survey was open through the month of January in English and Spanish. 529 responses. More than 5x the responses from Boulder's survey, and almost the same as Austin's response, even though their population is far greater. Though this is not statistically valid its still important response. Lance shared breakdowns on demographic data noting there was a good spread on

geography, but fewer responses from the northwest and Pear Park areas. Additionally, there were few renter responses, though a number of landlord responses. Shade was the most tangible benefit response, and priorities for management were identified as pests and disease, drought, and losing trees from lack of care. There was also support for sustaining trees during construction. Half respondents felt that tree canopy had declined in their neighborhoods over the last decade. Trees are being taken care of by individuals (not professional companies) and about half the respondents were unaware of any tree care regulations.

Lance shared with the board that American Forest sets tree canopy goals at 30% canopy cover, A 20% goal would require a doubling of existing trees (230,000 new trees). The Forestry board would like to implement an 18% canopy coverage average that takes into account a lower coverage goal where appropriate (airport, commercial/industrial areas, rural agricultural areas) and a higher goal in residential, parks and open space areas.

The Board thanked Lance for the presentation. Lance will forward a draft of the plan to the board at the end of March for their review and support as it moves forward for Council Adoption.

Painted Bowl

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

JUCO Food Vendor Selection Meeting Representation

Emily Krause advised the board that historically PRAB has had a representative on the JUCO Food Vendor Selection Committee. Lilly Grisafi will check her schedule and let Emily know.

For the Good of the Community

Board members wondered about the election timeline. Ken Sherbenou advised the board that Election Day is April 4. The ballot includes eight city council candidates, the Community Recreation Center question, and extending the lease for CDA on the public land to 99 years.

Board members wondered about the Orchard Mesa Pool. Ken Sherbenou shared with the Board that City Council discussed the pool last night and gave direction for staff to resume work with the consultant working on a renovation plan for the pool. There is an operational agreement in place to 2026, which should give the community a lot more confidence in the continued operation and highlights the City's dedication to the OM Pool.

Adjourn

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:39 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be March 2, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist