

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – March 2, 2023

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay
Cindy Enos-Martinez
Kyle Gardner
Gary Schroen
Austin Solko
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Lilly Grisafi
Phil Pe'a
Abe Herman

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

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

The Board noted that though there were 7 board members at the meeting, only 6 approved the minutes. Nancy Strippell joined shortly after the minutes were approved. Nancy Strippel made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

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

Randy Coleman – Superintendent Presentation

Randy Coleman shared his experience with the department beginning as a seasonal, working in various positions across the Parks Division, rising through the ranks of Forestry as a crew leader, then Supervisor and now the Superintendent.

Randy Supervises four supervisors who oversee Horticulture, Irrigation and Turf, Forestry and Open Space, Sports Facilities, and River District, Cemetery and general facilities. Randy's vision for the department includes improving service to the community, creating a niche for each supervisor (urban forestry, top notch sports facilities, specializing in horticulture to create great visual impact in planting beds on main and around town, having some construction/project

management in Facilities to make an impact in existing facilities and planning for new things to be added to the system), creating a skilled workforce, and positioning the department for growth.

Goals for the Division include improving Open Space and Trails, expanding volunteer programs and collaborative partnerships, improving the user experience, taking care of what we have, engaging and activating the community.

Board members wondered what the impact of the unhoused population is having on Parks staff. Staff are seeing significant increases requiring responses to vandalism of the facilities, graffiti, increased loose trash in parks and along the trails.

Board members wondered about the changes at Columbine. Randy shared that staff are proactively making improvements to entice and accommodate users such as the Central High School softball team. Board members also asked about the capacity of Canyon View. Randy reminded board members there is a lot of unused, high quality grass in the rest of the system that many user groups could be utilizing to take pressure off Canyon View. Canyon View is above capacity and it takes a lot of dollars and staff time to try to keep up with the impacts of such a high degree of use.

Ken shared that Randy's leadership has been invaluable. Innovations he has proposed and executed have really made a difference throughout the Parks system already with more innovation planned for this year including a self-cleaning restroom downtown which the City is funding in partnership with the DDA.

Painted Bowl

This is an opportunity to continue expansion of the Open Space program with this off Mariposa near the Lunch Loop Trailhead. Staff are talking about creating formalized access to the Painted Bowl and other areas for bouldering. The plans are preliminary in nature but would create a parking area on the same side of the road to make safer access to these bouldering spaces.

The board voiced support for the concept and increasing the safety by creating parking on the same side of the road so that climbers aren't running across the street with their crash mats. Board members also suggested a trail connection to lunch loops would be beneficial so that there is an additional connection there as well.

Bill Findlay made a motion that the board support staff evaluating opening up the Painted Bowl area for public bouldering access. The motion was seconded by Cindy Enos-Martinez and carried unanimously.

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

Bill Findlay shared with the board that Andrey Krievs of the Community Recreation Center Campaign Committee has reached out asking if the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would write an OpEd in support of the Community Recreation Center initiative on the ballot. Board members support this idea as well as including a resolution from the board endorsing the Council action to place the initiative on the ballot. Kyle Gardner made a motion to approve a resolution endorsing the ballot language and that the Board write an OpEd to the Daily Sentinel in support of Ballot initiative 1A funding a community recreation center. The motion was seconded by Bill Findlay and carried unanimously.

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

CIP Projects

Ken shared with the board CIP Projects upcoming for the department:

- 5th Street restroom replacement
- Canyon View parking lot overlay
- Chipeta playground replacement. This project received a planning grant but not an implementation grant. Staff are still working with the school district on this project.
- Replacement of downtown electrical (used for big events and holiday lights)
- Emerson Park Renovation design (this is for the destination skate park)
- Las Colonias Shade shelters in dog park, and near the first drop at the river park
- Lincoln Park boiler replacement
- Lincoln Park pool replaster –The plaster is 18 years old and at the end of its useful life.
- Pineridge – enclose existing porta potties
- Playground repair budget
- River front trail widening
- Skate park improvements at Eagle Rim
- Jurassic flats – including vault toilet
- Asphalt to concrete
- Water conservation – turf to native
- Disc golf basket replacement

Board members wondered how Orchard Mesa pool fits into this picture. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that the City has resumed design on Orchard Mesa pool and he will bring concepts back to PRAB once the consultant shares them.

For the Good of the Community

Board members talked about the Fireworks plan that was approved last night. The fireworks shows were well received in 2022 and without the issues we experienced in 2021. Staff expects similar reception in 2023.

Board members wondered about the progress on the zip line from Eagle Rim to Las Colonias. Once digging began, the soil composition required a complete redesign of the foundations, so Bonsai is working through those challenges.

Board members noted that Phil is not running for re-election. Council member Pe'a noted that April will be his last meeting.

Adjourn

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be April 4, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist