

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – September 7, 2023

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Abe Herman
Cody Kennedy, alternate

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

Guests Present: Jayme Chiaro – Principal, Chipeta Elementary
Eddie Mort – Director of Maintenance, Grounds and
Operations (SD51)

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

Bill Findlay made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and approved unanimously.

Motion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 9 No 0

Chipeta Playground CHF Grant

Ken Sherbenou introduced Jayme Chiaro, Principal at Chipeta Elementary. Principal Chiaro talked with the board about Chipeta Elementary. The school boundaries cover a large area from North Avenue to the river. 67% of the students receive free or reduced lunch. Chipeta is a Title School. Their population is fairly diverse for Grand Junction and, of course, Chipeta has an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Grand Junction. The grass is situated on the north side of the building so it holds the ice and snow in the winter and is extra hot in the summer. City staff re-seeds the area annually, but between the weather and regular use by the kids, the grass is already decimated by the end of fall.

The school has applied for a grant to replace the grass with artificial turf. Though they were not awarded the funds for replacement, they were awarded a planning grant to encourage a grass roots effort for planning improvements. The school has been working on engagement since January 2023 with school families, using the survey data from the first grant application, and Parks and Recreation camp kids who use the playground over the summer in anticipation of applying for a new grant in February 2024. The school has retained a professional group who is working on building three models of potential re-imaginings of a playground and smaller turf area. At the end of this school semester those ideas will be narrowed down with further engagement with the school community in time to complete and submit the application.

The Colorado Health Foundation is leery of being known as the “playground granters” and are really focused on equity, so that is an area where Chipeta has concentrated their efforts. Additionally, because Chipeta is an IGA school, any support PRAB could lend will be helpful with the grant application. Cindy Enos Martinez made a motion that PRAB write a letter of support for the grant application that Chipeta is submitting to the Colorado Health Foundation. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

Motion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 9 No 0

Emerson Skate Park Design and GOCO Grant

Ken Sherbenou shared an update on the Emerson Skate Park design. Staff worked with Team Pain to come up with a concept, hold public meetings, gather input from the skate community as well as work with a landscape architect to come up with a plan that preserves all the healthy mature trees identified by the City Forester. Team Pain held two formal public meetings and also engaged with the skate community outside of those meetings in an effort to make sure this design really has been lead by the skate community.

The plan includes a street course, as well as an intermediate and a more advanced bowl that’s eight to ten feet deep. The plan includes angled parking along 10th street that continues the bike lane in front of the parking. A permanent restroom structure is not part of the design. Brick and mortar restrooms are currently problematic in terms of maintenance and vandalism. The department is moving towards porta potties inside enclosures (similar to what has been installed at Pine Ridge) to combat vandalism.

The estimate is about \$2.8M to build including energy efficient LED lighting from MUSCO. Staff plan to approach GOCO for a \$500,000 grant in the November cycle which would be about 20% of the project cost. Though we are early in the budget process, the other 80% is currently proposed in the 2024 budget. Building this skate park is a high priority for the department for serving the skate community, for activating Emerson park, and for driving positive utilization of that park.

Board members wondered how staff plan to combat graffiti. Emily Krause shared with the board that the current skate parks are being tagged due to age and quality but a Team Pain skate park will not get tagged. Team Pain skate parks become a tourism driver and have a following of

folks who will travel just to skate all the Team Pain parks. Board members wondered if leaves would be a hazard. The design of the elements keeps a good distance so that leaves shouldn't drop directly in the elements, but there will be some maintenance required to remove leaves that blow in to bowls or other elements.

Austin Solko made a motion that PRAB support this project for inclusion in the 2024 budget as well as write a letter of support for the grant application for funding by GOCO. The motion was seconded by Gary Schroen and carried unanimously.

Motion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 9 No 0

Officer Elections

The bylaws allow for serving two consecutive years as chair. Lilly Grisafi nominated Lisa Whalin to continue serving as Chair. The nomination was seconded by Austin Solko.

Gary Schroen nominated Lilly Grisafi to continue serving as Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Byron Wiehe.

Both nominations were voted on and carried unanimously.

Motions by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 9 No 0

Dos Rios Updates

Ken Sherbenou shared an update on the splash park at Dos Rios. Construction will be completed in 2023/2024 with a completion goal of early next year so that it can be opened once we have warmer weather. When completed it will be five times the size of the Lincoln Park Splash Pad and will mimic a river. Board members wondered what would happen with the splash pad during colder months. Staff anticipates this area will be a place where people want to hang out even when there isn't water running down the feature. The features will be at grade so there are less opportunities to vandalize jets. There is \$26,000 in the budget for staff installed landscaping around the feature.

Across the trail in the area where the beach will be constructed there is a lot of tamarisk. Goats will be clearing the tamarisk as much as possible and then Clarke and Co will install stairs and clear grub and finish up the beach area. The channel where the beach will be is only active in high water years. It was fairly active this year, but in most years it is a pretty calm side channel.

Board members wondered about the closed restrooms at Sherwood Park. Ken Sherbenou shared that closing the restroom has really reduced the negative uses at Sherwood both the hanging out in the shelter as well as vandalism in the restroom and shelter areas. Staff are placing porta potties and converting shelters to "event only" and opened for paid reservations.

Board members asked for clarification about the board role at the CRC meetings. Ken Shared that Board input is valuable and that the decisions are less dramatic at this point and are about maximizing flow and fine-tuning program elements versus where the facility will be located or what program elements to include.

Adjourn

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:11 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be October 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist

Regular Meetings

Thursday, November 2 - Noon
Thursday, December 7 – Noon

CRC Committee Meeting Dates

Thursday, October 19 - Noon
Thursday, November 16 - Noon
Tuesday, December 5 - Noon

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Monday, December 11