

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – October 5, 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
Abe Herman, City Councilor

Board Members Absent: Cody Kennedy, alternate

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

Guests Present: OLC

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

Lilly Grisafi made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 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

Supervisor Presentation - Emily Krause- Recreation Superintendent

Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent shared with the Board about the Recreation Division which includes Aquatics, youth and adult athletics, contracted programs, senior programs, art and culture, the Bookcliff Activity Center, the new childcare facility, special events, block party trailers, as well as handling facility reservations and scheduling for parks facilities.

Emily Krause shared data showing how programs have bounced back since Covid. Most (though not all) programs have bounced back since Covid. Summer Camps are at their maximum capacity. Adult Softball was in decline pre-covid and participation has increased after covid. Recreation programming is limited by indoor space availability and Recreation Coordinators have gotten very creative in the ways they continue to offer high quality programming.

The Parks and Recreation Department is transitioning to new software system. The current software has been utilized since 2014. Staff are undertaking the switch for more flexibility in data collection and reporting, as well as to make use of some technology upgrades enabling smoother online registration, online access to our scholarship program, and increased communication tools) Staff continue to work on increasing our online participation and expect that to continue to grow as the CRC comes on line.

Emily shared other aspects of the business of Recreation such as marketing and coordinating the information coming from the programs in the software program, to the activity guide, to social media to the newsletter. The Scholarship program offered assistance to 85 kids in 2023 with an additional 198 kids receiving CCAP assistance (for summer camp). The Round Up for Recreation program allows residents to round up their City utility bill to the nearest dollar. The amount rounded up goes into the scholarship fund. Emily shared that City leadership has encouraged staff to accommodate as many scholarships as possible.

The Childcare Facility is an exciting new venture that the City is undertaking as an employee benefit that also helps to take the pressure off the daycare spaces available around town. Right now they are in the process of building and outdoor classroom where the kids can plant a garden next year, outdoor musical instruments, and adding shade over the playground. The center is licensed for universal pre-k and the whole facility is curriculum-based. Board members shared that they have heard the employees are really grateful for the opportunity to have access to this daycare and also wondered if hiring had been an issue. Emily shared that it has been tough to hire, as there aren't enough credentialed workers for the growing need in the community. Council member Herman wondered if city employees get preference when filling daycare spots. Emily Krause shared that spots were filled by employees first, then with the partners (who get a year long contract). All the infant spaces are saved for employee babies.

Another new duty of the recreation division is the coordination of the block party trailer. Due to increased demand a second trailer has been added. Ken Sherbenou shared that the City is hosting a "Get to know your City" event at Whitman Park from 4 – 6pm. Both block party trailers along with a bounce house, goody bags (decorated by the day care kiddos), booths from city departments and other activities will be in the park for people to enjoy.

The Recreation division is small but mighty and looking forward to growing as construction begins on the community recreation center. The CRC Manager will be on in Q3 2024, with a maintenance manager in Q4 of 2024. This staff members will have key expertise, and it is important to have them on while we are working through the construction process, and operational planning. In particular staff are hoping to have the maintenance person on now to be involved in all those maintenance systems from the ground up.

Pickleball/Tennis Update

Renner is on site and has removed all the interior fencing to make room for the pickleball courts. They are scheduled to be done by the end of October. They are also finishing the surfacing at Canyon View and will resurface the four courts at Pineridge.

Parking blocks have been installed at Canyon View to reduce bad behavior and help organize the parking on heavy sports days. Millings have been added and a treatment to stabilize the millings so that we can stripe it. It still is not a paved lot, but it is a 5 year fix.

Ken reminded the board that Bob McDonald of OLC presented to PRAB most recently in August and has also led the other public forums and focus groups. Bob is back on the agenda today to answer any questions with the hope that PRAB will recommend adoption of the plan to Council.

Options 2 – 5 have not been fleshed out in terms of how the partners would contribute. The most recent discussion concluded with the County willing to chip in and School District 51 ready to be out of the agreement completely. At one point the School District was willing to deed the land to the city and the City would take on both ownership and operation. The partners were all invited to this process but further discussions and decision-making conversations have not been had yet.

Board members wondered if they were being asked to recommend a particular option. Ken Sherbenou shared that staff is hoping for adoption of the plan which includes all the options. Adoption of the plan would validate the processes for and work that has been done but stop short of endorsing one option the others.

Board members if the City desired to take on ownership of the OM Pool facility. Ken Sherbenou reminded the board that those decisions don't have to be made right now and that adoption of this plan leaves that open for future discussion as data continues to be collected and other amenities in town are opened.

Board members clarified that the existing gymnasium building is not sized properly sized to meet the needs of teams. Mr. McDonald confirmed that if an indoor field house was created, the current building would have to be demolished. Board members wondered why demolishing the pool and using that space as a multi-purpose field area was not on the table. Mr. McDonald reminded the board that the cost of demoing the pool building would be significant and was studied as part of Option 4. Board members wondered what option was most aligned with the PROS plan. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that option 2 was likely most aligned with the PROS plan and reminded them that adopting the full plan allows for operation of OM through 2026 so that staff can collect data about OM and CRC usage as well as collecting data about sales tax and cannabis tax revenues so that options can be weighed and decisions made with more complete data. Adoption of this plan does not affect the Lincoln Park pool and it will remain seasonally operated.

Bill Findlay made a motion that PRAB recommend adoption of the Orchard Mesa Recreation Facility plan. The motion was seconded by Kyle Gardner and carried unanimously.

Adjourn

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:08 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be November 2, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist

Regular Meetings

Thursday, December 7 – Noon

CRC Committee Meeting Dates

Thursday, November 16 - Noon

Tuesday, December 5 - Noon

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Monday, December 11