

www.Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – November 2, 2023

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Austin Solko
Kyle Gardner

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent
Jeff Anderson, Sports Facilities Supervisor
Niki Galehouse, Community Development Planning Supervisor
Tricia Rothwell, Recreation Coordinator

Guests Present: Haley Van Camp, Arts and Culture Coordinator

Meeting called to order by Lisa Whalin at 12:00 p.m.

Bill Findlay made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Cindy Enos-Martinez and approved unanimously.

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

Open Space Dedication and Fee In-Lieu Policy

Niki Galehouse, Community Development Planning Supervisor, stated that on November 14 the Zoning and Development Code update will go to the Planning Commission.

Niki explained the current code. Community Development Director (Tamra Allen) has the ability to decide if the City accepts the land or the fee. The new policy recommendation shifts the decision to the landowner. City staff has concerns and wants the language to remain as is. A consultant recommends leaving the language as is but adding review criteria.

Nancy Strippel was on the Development Code Committee and agrees with the staff recommendation. Bill Findlay stated that he would like to see proximity as a criteria. Ken Sherbenou said that the more we can reference the PROS plan the better. Fees in lieu is a source of funding for us but does not keep

pace with costs. Gary Schroen asked why this change. Niki Galehouse replied that the Development Code Committee is proposing the change. Nancy Strippel expressed concern that we risk very large developments without parks if the code is changed. Byron Wiehe inquired if we have the staff to take care of additional parks. Ken Sherbenou responded that we need to make sure to plan for that. Bill Findlay added that undeveloped or nature parks are needed as well. Ken Sherbenou agreed that we need to keep our parks diversified. Emily Krause asked if there was a timeline that the property had to be developed. Nikki Galehouse replied that she did not think so. Lilly Grisafi stated that developers may be more interested in donating land if there is a time limit; that a piece of dirt won't just sit there.

Lilly Grisafi made a motion to support the consultant's recommendation for the Open Space Dedication or Payment of Fee in-Lieu policy. The motion was seconded by Gary Schroen and approved unanimously.

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

A letter will be drafted by PRAB for the Planning Commission.

Supervisor Presentation – Jeff Anderson – Sports Facilities Supervisor

Jeff Anderson gave a presentation of the facilities, staff and responsibilities he oversees. The facilities Jeff oversees are Lincoln Park, Canyon View Park, Kronkright Fields and Columbine Fields. Jeff highlighted the activities at Lincoln Park to include JUCO World Series, Grand Junction Jackalopes, School District 51 athletics, Colorado Mesa University athletics, and community events. The staff at Lincoln Park consists of three full time and three to five seasonal employees. Canyon View Park was mentioned next with sports that include softball, baseball, soccer, football, tennis, lacrosse, handball, volleyball, basketball, roller hockey and horseshoes. In addition to those activities the park also hosts a playground, picnic pavilions, a dog park, ponds and walking trails. The staff at Canyon View consists of four full time employees and three to five seasonal employees. Both the Lincoln Park and Canyon View staff maintain Kronkright and Columbine fields which are the homes for baseball and softball games and practices. Jeff then summarized the roles and responsibilities of his division. These include turf, sports surfaces, irrigation, park grounds, facilities and events. The presentation concluded with projects and improvements such as adding four tennis courts at Canyon View, converting all tennis courts at Lincoln Park to pickleball courts for a total of twenty, resurfacing the Canyon View parking lot, and replacing Suplizio's outfield fence.

Byron Wiehe asked if Columbine could be expanded to accommodate an age group that doesn't have a place to play right now, 14-15 year olds, which is about 150 – 300 kids.

Ken Sherbenou responded that the PROS plan has a robust improvement plan for Columbine and that there are trees that may or may not be able to be moved. Ken thanked Byron for bringing up that idea.

Lilly Grisafi asked who takes care of Golf. Ken Sherbenou explained that it is under General Services because it is an enterprise fund.

Whitman Park

Ken Sherbenou stated that on September 12 Whitman went to reservation only use and the reason for that is that we are implementing the PROS plan. Activation of a park increases comfortability. In the PROS plan survey 92 out of 807 comments mentioned homelessness. Hawthorne and Emerson have capital projects in 2024. Whitman has \$775,000 in the 2024 budget for planning and improvements.

Ken added that the City's housing division is working to address the unhoused and that the City has monetarily supported private sector efforts. The action at Whitman coincided with other efforts.

Adjourn

Lisa Whalin adjourned the meeting at 1:18pm.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be December 7, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Rothwell
Recreation Coordinator