

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – February 1, 2024

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kyle Gardner
Lilly Grisafi
Gary Schroen
Austin Solko
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin

Board Members Absent: William Findlay
Cindy Enos-Martinez
Byron Wiehe

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

Guests Present: Sam Klomhaus, Daily Sentinel
Jeff Hinkle, KKCO/KJCT8

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

Lilly Grisafi made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2024 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and approved unanimously.

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

Park Rules Update

Ken talked with the board about the rules update. This version of the proposal takes into account the public meeting feedback, as well as engagement gathered online. These rules signs are located at all our park facilities, and will apply at the 35 developed park facilities.

Rules are evaluated on a regular basis. Recent changes have been made to adopt changes in liquor laws, and to adjust parks to include winter hours. For this revision, staff have been gathering information from other agencies around the state. Based on that information gathered it appears that Grand Junction is behind with updates that are fairly standard across other organizations state-wide.

Ken reviewed the current rules with board members. The visual look of the sign on this rule board is fairly bland. There are no visuals and the rules are very text heavy. The current rules are generally represented in the updated sign. Board members wondered what the attendance was at the public meeting. Ken reported that the meeting notice was sent out via press release and to the 20,000 emails in the Parks and Recreation database and the meeting was attended by 15 people. There has been good engagement, including comments, online.

The draft proposal includes park hours listed at the top, followed by allowed activities. During the public meeting there was a desire for increased enforcement of off-leash pets in the parks which is provided by Mesa County Animal Control. Their number is on the sign and Board members suggested having the QR code go directly to the dog park webpage versus to the general City landing page. Board members wondered if using a bullet strategy rather than full sentences next to each of the sections could help make the sign more readable as well as the addition some kind of delineation setting off the text of each section.

The next section is activities which are allowed by permit (preauthorized commercial sales, structures such as bounce houses, and enclosures). Board members wondered how this would impact users of the River Park who often bring shade structures, by the river or family volleyball/badminton games which drop in to the park and use stakes setting up their nets. Board members suggested that the second bullet could be reworded to say enclosed structures (tents, booths, amusement devices, etc) require a permit to be constructed, erected, installed, attached or staked in any park facility.

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that staff will be installing slack line posts in the southwest corner of Lincoln Park. Posts will be set up in a fashion that encourages use of different lengths (ability level) and is in a desirable, though less busy, section of the park. Board members suggested making sure the designated area is easy to find. Board members also specifically suggested calling out trees as not allowed for slack line use.

The section listing activities prohibited by the rules calls out glass containers, fires (outside of city provided grills), smoking/vaping, overnight camping, littering, dumping, golfing, possessing stolen property, and digging (as associated with metal detectors). Items left unattended in the park are considered abandoned. Board members suggested putting the non-emergency dispatch number so that the on-call parks number isn't inundated with enforcement calls.

Due to the number of suggested revisions. The board decided to hold a special meeting to go over revisions before making a recommendation on forwarding this to City Council.

JUCO Vendor Selection – PRAB Representative

Emily Krause talked with the Board about the vendor selection process for JUCO. Every year PRAB provides a representative to the selection committee which will meet on March 8 at 9am in the Parks and Recreation Administration Office. Lilly Grisafi will represent the board at the meeting.

Emerson Skate Park Construction Update

Ken talked with the board about the plans for the Emerson Skate Park. Some changes have been made to seat walls, to make them nearer the recreational features, as well as provide the skate amenities some protection from the traffic. City crews have already moved about 15 smaller trees. After the construction fencing goes up, crews may do some trimming and raising to ensure the overall health of the trees. This design has come from a lot of skate community input and Team Pain has worked closely with the skate community to incorporate ideas and make sure it complements (without duplicating) other skate parks in the community. Originally this idea came out of the public engagement during the PROS plan process. Board members wondered where the closest public parking is located. Ken shared that in addition to the parking in the design there is on street parking on 10th street north of Ute. Emily Krause advised the board that skate park users in general tend to skate to their destination.

Due to the length of the park rules sign update discussion the other agenda items were tabled until the March meeting.

Adjourn

Lisa Whalin adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be March 7, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist