

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – December 1, 2022

Meeting Location: Barn – Lincoln Park

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Byron Wiehe
Abe Herman
Phil Pe'a

City Staff Present: Greg Caton, City Manager
Jodi Welch, Director of Finance
Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent
Larry Manchester, Recreation Supervisor
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Meeting called to order by Lisa Whalin at 12:02 p.m.

Austin Solko made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 3 meeting. The motion was seconded by Cindy Enos-Martinez and approved unanimously.

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

Supervisor Presentation – Larry Manchester

Larry Manchester introduced himself to the Board. He is the Recreation Supervisor in charge of Adult Sports, Aquatics, and Special Events. The City manages three aquatic facilities over the course of the year, Lincoln Park, Orchard Mesa, and the Town of Palisade's pool. This summer the Lincoln Park Moyer Pool opened on May 21 and closed on September 5. The pool ended at the season at 107% of swim lesson revenue projections and 113% of admission revenue projections. The Orchard Mesa pool, though currently experiencing challenges with the boiler is on track to end the year at 109% of swim lesson revenue and 113% of admission revenue projections. This was a really successful summer for staffing. Even though this is often an employee's first job, the staff is very bought in to the risk management program, the training, and exceeding the expectations of the unannounced safety audits.

Our team sports are coming back strong after Covid declines. There is a struggle with space for adult volleyball, though youth volleyball participation is strong. Cornhole, adult basketball and pickleball remain very popular (one pickleball tournament drew 115 teams). Adult softball ended 110% of budgeted revenue with the Fall season the largest in five years.

Special events are also returning to pre-Covid levels and the department has added a coordinator devoted to special events and a floating seasonal staff to support them. Most recently the Water Lights at night event was held at the butterfly pond in Las Colonias. We sold and floated 900 lanterns for this event.

Larry updated the board on CIP projects slated for the Lincoln Park pool including, pending budget approval, replastering of the pool and adding a second boiler. These improvements emphasize the City's commitment to maintaining and keeping our facilities running. The replastering project would be done before the facility opens so that the post replaster maintenance can be continued through the summer before the pool is buttoned up for the winter. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that on top of his expertise in Aquatics and longevity with the department he is also serving as an interim Park Supervisor while the position vacated by Kyle Coltrinari is being recruited.

Board members wondered how to access more gym space at schools. Larry advised the board that school use is mostly driving by the intergovernmental agreements.

Vice Chair

Gary Schroen made a motion that Lily Grasifi fill the Vice Chair position. The motion was seconded by Cindy Enos-Martinez and approved unanimously.

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

Orchard Mesa Pool Renovation

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the Orchard Mesa Pool renovation. The first article printed by the Daily Sentinel on Sunday, November 13 was fairly accurate. The City is under contract with an aquatic design firm. Ohlson Lavoie Corporation (OLC). This is a \$523,000 design process that includes construction documents and construction administration. So far the City has spent about \$40,000 on that process. Concurrently the City has been having ongoing conversation with the partners. In 2019 there was \$2.4M estimate for major mechanical renovation. Of the partners, Mesa County agreed to contribute and the School District declined. This is a jointly run facility and all the partners need to contribute. Right now one partner, very vocally, is refusing to participate.

Board members are concerned that this will have a negative impact on passing the Community Recreation Center. Ken Sherbenou reassured the board that the narrative that the City hasn't taken care of the facility is inaccurate. The City has been doing maintenance. The previous agreement didn't address major capital and the mechanical components from 1986 are wearing

out. The City has replastered, redone decking, and refurbished locker rooms, as well as maintained pool pumps and heaters and chemical distribution components. Similar to a car, you can replace oil and spark plugs and other parts but at some point you need to replace an engine if you are going to keep running the car.

Board members wondered what kind of messaging they should be sharing when folks are asking them questions. Ken Sherbenou reminded the Board that the City is invested, was working on a plan for renovation, but the school district owns the land and the building. Major renovations such as HVAC and other mechanical components are not solely the City's responsibility to maintain. It takes investment from the partners, and one partner is unwilling to participate.

For the Good of the Community

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that the ballot language for the Community Recreation Center will go to Council on Wednesday, December 7. Jodi Welch shared that the resolution has to be written to comply with Tabor laws and protect the City in the future. There was a court case that allows a revenue question tied to debt to be written as one question instead of two which should make it more clear for voters. The April ballot will have this question as well as four council seats.

Board members wondered if cannabis revenue should be mentioned in the question. Staff advised that due to the complexity of the question the revenue from cannabis should be addressed in other messaging rather than on the ballot. Bill Findlay made a motion that the Board support Council approving this version of the ballot language which they have reviewed. The motion was seconded by Kyle Gardner and carried unanimously.

Motion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0
(Nancy Strippel had to leave before this vote was taken.)

Bylaws review was tabled until January.

Adjourn

The board adjourned by acclamation at 1:36 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be January 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist