

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – June 6, 2024

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent:

Guests Present: Chandler Smith

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

Called to Order 12:01pm

Approval of Minutes

Board members noted that the number of yes votes was more than the number of board members. Staff received word that Council members are voting members of the Board. Bill Findlay made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular May meeting. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

Yes 10 No 0

Board members noted that Jason Nguyen participated online during the May 14 special meeting. Byron Wiehe made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting with the attendance change. The motion was seconded by Lilly Grisafi and carried unanimously.

Yes 9 (Councilor Herman abstained) No 0

Chandler Smith will be joining the board as a regular member at the July meeting and is attending this meeting to get up to speed. The board introduced themselves.

Whitman Design Update

Ken talked with the board about the special meeting to discuss the Whitman Park Concepts. DTJ design is going through the feedback from those meetings and are rolling it into one preferred design concept and cost estimates most likely at the August meeting.

Hawthorne Park Improvements

Ken Sherbenou thanked the board members who were able to attend the public meeting for Hawthorne Park noting that the meeting had great attendance. Overwhelmingly people are interested in playground replacement. The Hawthorne Park playground was installed the same year as the Sherwood Park playground (which was replaced in 2021), Emerson (demolished for the construction of the destination skate park), and Westlake (had minor upgrades recently and is also on track for full replacement). Residents are also interested in safety lighting and a pollinator garden. Safety lighting is already funded but the RFP only had one (extremely high priced) response. The project has been rescope and will be put out to bid again for, hopefully, a more competitive response.

Most people are interested in replacing and expanding the playground footprint. People who chose expansion were asked a series of questions about what they would like to see in the playground. (And then what amenity in each of the options). People expressed interest in the generational swing (where the parent swings with their child), rocks and logs climbing elements, and an inclusive (wheelchair accessible) spinner.

Staff plan to submit the playground replacement as a 2025 budget proposal. Board members emphasized their desire for open grass space to remain an aspect of Hawthorne Park. Austin Solko made a motion that the board support the proposal for playground replacement in the 2025 budget request with consideration for expansion as the budget allows. The motion was seconded by Gary Schroen and carried unanimously.

Yes 10 No 0

CRC Outdoor Facility Phase

Board members commented on what a great event the CRC Groundbreaking was and hope the QR codes can be shared with folks who were unable to attend. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board an application is being made to GOCO for grant funds for field construction, with an adjacent playground. Staff also hope to construct a shelter, and additional overflow gravel parking lot (which will also serve as the construction staging area). The application is due in July 2024 for award in Dec 2024. The City also plans to apply for a grant to fund riverfront connectivity in July 2025 award in December 2025. This is a request for \$1M which is the max award. A successful application would allow the City to make use of the contractors already being mobilized on the product which will be realized in significant savings.

Board members wondered about the potential buildout for the rest of Matchett Park. Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that an update to the Matchett Master Plan is on the radar for the future. Board members hoped that baseball/girls softball could be considered for addition. Ken Sherbenou advised

the board that improvements to Columbine were approved as part of the CDBG funds and staff anticipates continued activation of that park. Gary Schroen made a motion that the board support the application to GOCO for grant funding to expand the outdoor facilities around the Community Recreation Center. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

Yes 10 No 0

For the Good of the Community

Board members asked about the pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the old train station to connect downtown to Dos Rios. Council President Herman shared that the bridge design and construction is complicated because of the height required for going over the train tracks. CDOT is also doing construction in the area which can complicate coordination but Council is excited about the opportunity to connect downtown to Dos Rios.

Lily Grisafi shared with the board that taking a run on the riverfront trail can feel unsafe in certain stretches. She wonders about looking into the blue light boxes that you often see on college campuses that call 911 and have a location attached to them so dispatch knows where you are. Staff recognize that there are areas of concern, especial in dawn/twilight hours when there is less light and areas which have heavier vegetation. Staff (and goats) continue to thin vegetation along the trail.

The board thanked Gary Schroen for his dedicated service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. As a term limited member, this is his last meeting. Gary shared he has enjoyed his tenure on the board, including time as chair. He appreciates the respectful yet casual nature of the board and the work the board undertakes. Councilor Herman shared that Council really appreciates community member's willingness to serve on Boards and Commissions.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The meetings of the Parks and Recreation Advisory board is:

7/2 – (moved) Regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist