

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – February 6, 2025

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Abe Herman
Lilly Simonds
Chandler Smith
Austin Solko
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez

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

Meeting called to order by Nancy Strippel at 12:10 p.m.

Approve Minutes from the January 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Bill Findlay made a motion to approve the minutes from the January Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, the motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

Budget/ CIP Projects 2025

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board the capital projects that are budgeted for 2025. Dollars are set aside for turf to native conversions including work at Lilac Park, stadium improvements including painting A – D stands, red rubber replacement around the infield and dugouts, and scoreboard replacements, Columbine improvements (funded by CDBG dollars), pedestrian lighting in Hawthorne and Columbine, and playground repairs/component replacement. Dollars are also set aside to complete the full design finalization for Whitman and a partial build of some amenities. Staff are working to secure grants and funding from partners to assist with construction costs. Potential funding sources for Whitman include Bureau of Reclamation, CDBG, DDA, CDOT (towards sidewalk improvement and rerouting), PIAB, and perhaps some savings generated by self-performance of certain portions of the project.

Ken Sherbenou further advised the board that there is \$56M budgeted in 2025 (the bulk of the construction spending) for progress on the construction of the community recreation center.

Staff are waiting for a decision on a GOCO grant for some outdoor amenities including the overflow parking lot, and a high school soccer sized synthetic field.

Board members wondered if synthetic turf would ever be put in place at Suplizio. Ken reminded the board that the cost estimate is about \$2.3M. Staff have submitted a couple of different grants with a couple of entities for funding. Unfortunately, neither GOCO nor the Bureau of Reclamation awarded funds for that request. The outfield has been a struggle and a lot of fields at this level are replaced/re-sodded on a regular basis though it has been a long time since that has happened here.

JUCO Vendor Selection Committee

Emily talked with the board about the vendor selection process. As JUCO is one of the most lucrative events for food vendors, the City oversees the selection process to make sure it is fair and equitable. Two JUCO committee members sit on the committee and in the past a member of PRAB has also sat on the committee. Lily was part of the panel last year. The JUCO Committee leads the charge, and it is important to have another voice. Austin Solko will serve this year.

Main Street Improvements

Ken talked with the board about dollars set aside to convert the remaining fountains on Main Street, including the old splash pad. The splash pad was such a popular amenity it was often overrun with patrons and many store owners were disappointed in the conflict with dripping wet guests entering their storefronts. Immediately after its closure, the space was gated off but has recently been opened back up with benches and planters to be more welcoming (while remaining a dry amenity.) Consultants have looked at a couple of options for renovating the space.

Options included planters and benches, an option with a fire pit, similar to the area in front of the Hot Tomato in Fruita, more active options including swings or a slide, and a kids bike park (which was less well received by some of the partners). Staff are interested in doing more public process around these options to gather feedback from citizens.

Board members were curious about removing parking spaces to increase the option for amenities. Ken shared that there may be some appetite for making the spaces more shallow so that some square footage can be gained, but the parking wouldn't be lost. Board members wondered if activation of this nature, in the middle of a main street is common. Ken advised that this is common across downtown areas and often includes large games (giant chess pieces) or permanent ping pong tables.

Lilac Park Landscape

Board members wondered if the ownership around Lilac Park has been resolved. Ken advised board members that the space is a CDOT right of way which the City maintains and has used as a park. This current concept has evolved taking into account the location between the highway and the car dealership. Because the square footage is so large it is expensive to maintain (irrigate and mow) and has received the same level of maintenance that you see at other parks. This

concept of a turf to native conversion is really aimed at reducing the maintenance cost of this space, though it will take three years to look 'finished'.

If PRAB supports this conversion and will write a letter, staff will add it to a grant application to help fund the conversion. Abe Herman made a motion that PRAB write a letter of support of the turf to native conversion at Lilac Park. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

Yes - 9

No - 0

For The Good of the Community

Lilly Simonds announced she is moving back to UT, and April will be her last meeting. Ken thanked Lilly for her engagement with PRAB and also with PLAYS Foundation.

Adjourn by acclamation at 1:25

Next Meeting – March 6, 12:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist