

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – April 1, 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

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez
Byron Wiehe - absent

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

Guests Present: Jim Licko, GFM|Center Table
Maura O’Neal GFM|Center Table
James Palmer, DTJ Design
Greg White, DTJ Design

Meeting called to order by Nancy Strippel at 12:01 p.m.

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

Chandler made a motion to approve the minutes from the March Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Lilly Simonds and carried unanimously.

Yes - 8

No - 0

Branding

Ken made introductions and shared with the board the agenda for the public meeting tonight. Tonight’s meeting will share project updates on the community recreation center and also seeks to gather input on branding and naming for the project.

Board members wondered when the decisions would be made on the add alternates. Emily Krause shared that most of the items that were removed from the regular construction list were designed to be added back in over time (even after opening) so there is a continual timeline of when decisions can be made to add items back to the construction schedule.

Ken Sherbenou introduced Jim Licko and Maura O'Neal of GFM|Center Table who are the consultants on the community recreation center (CRC) branding project. Mr. Licko shared that the company is based in Denver and works with many municipalities on community engagement. Their team has been working on background information gathering and figuring out how to fit the CRC under the brand umbrella of the City. A survey has been prepared seeking information around what words and visuals the community is coalescing around regarding the CRC. The Board is invited to participate in sharing their thoughts using the same process that the community will participate in this evening. Once this information is gathered, GFM|Center Table will work on design concepts for staff review and then will move on to marketing deliverables.

Main Street Improvements

Ken Sherbenou introduced James Palmer and Greg White who the Board met during the work on the design concepts for Whitman Park. Their team is looking at downtown improvements, specifically in the area of the old splash pad on Main Street. They are working closely with Brandon Stam and the Downtown Development Authority to look at the totality of Main Street, identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement for the corridor, knowing that the splash pad area is one major area of consideration.

Some of the key findings include: limited wayfinding, underutilized loading/delivery zones, inconsistent alleyway lighting, lack of flexible seating, and excessive parking depths. Recommendations include addition of gateway identifiers, wayfinding, lighting in alleyways, flexible seating, pet relief areas, water bottle fill stations as well as adding activation areas and shade.

Ken Sherbenou reminded the board that all of Main Street is considered a public park, even though much of their previous input has focused on the splash pad area renovation. Additionally, any improvements in the final design will likely be approached in phases. Board members felt strongly that it is really important to highlight how unique and cool downtown already is and this is an opportunity to capitalize and expand on what already exists.

For the Good of the Community

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that pedestrian lighting is being installed at Hawthorne and Columbine parks.

Board members wondered about adding signage at Playa Dos Rios. Ken shared that staff are working on signage for all of Dos Rios. Board members shared concerns about conflicts between people going from beach to splash to and with trail and wondered if using the same green that is in other intersections for indicating multi-use would help or creating a soft surface alternative for walkers similar to what is near the Riverpark in Las Colonias would be helpful.

Ken Sherbenou honored Lilly Simonds' service on PRAB. Her time, effort and dedication to the City and Parks and Recreation is deeply appreciated and she will be missed as she moves on to Salt Lake City.

Future Meetings

Ken reminded the board that the next meeting will be a tour of the community recreation center construction site (long pants and closed toe shoes required) as well as a beam signing.

Bill Findlay asked if the board could revisit the broader long term CIP plan at a future meeting.

Mayor Herman shared that impact fees are on the council agenda for the final reading this week. There has been a lot of input from the development committee and different perspectives are always welcome to give input at meetings.

Adjourn by acclamation at 1:35

Next Meeting –May 1 (at the CRC Construction site – long pants and closed toe shoes required).

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist