

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – June 5, 2025

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cindy Enos-Martinez
William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Chandler Smith
Austin Solko
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent:

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

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

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

Kyle Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes from the May Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

Yes - 8

No - 0

Ken shared that our new Council Liaison is Anna Stout who is stuck in Leadville today, but she looks forward to joining our next meeting. Our new alternate is Council member Jason Nguyen.

Art in the Parks

Ken Sherbenou introduced Jonathan Wheatley, Recreation Supervisor, to share an Art and Culture update. Jonathan talked with the group about the 1% for the arts program and the different projects that are in progress.

Four Canyons Parkway (in the area of 24.5 and F.5): The artist selected is providing a colorful sculpture inspired by flowers in bloom for the roundabout.

Horizon and G Road Roundabout: This project is jointly funded by the 1% and the Horizon Business Improvement District. There will be a recreation themed sculpture showcasing kayaking, rock climbing, and skiing.

Fire Station 7: The Grand Junction Commission on Art and Culture is working with Fire Department Staff and the artist to continue the theme of homage to historic firefighting equipment as well as modern firefighting equipment. This art should be completed in late July.

Monument Connect/Lunch Loop: Sculptural pieces created from recycled bicycle parts will be added to the shelter installation.

Conex Boxes in parks: Secured as a part of a grant to help activate parks and store recreation and other equipment, the outsides will be covered with murals. Murals include realistic scenes of nature, rabbits, some more conceptual/illustrative scenes of landscapes, natural elements, recreation scenes and even a music themed one for placement near the amphitheater.

There is an open call for Art at the CRC in the Aquatics area. This project was opened early because the finished product will be a permanent tile which will need to be installed according to the construction timeline. This art will be the focal point of the natatorium area.

Jonathan shared some upcoming projects, including Phase Two of Four Canyons which will expand the motif from the roundabout to median areas. Using unspent dollars at Fire Station 7 for an artistic bike rack and art inside the building. Ken Sherbenou commented that all of the great art activity and projects happening around the City, are a testament to the great work of the Art and Culture Commission.

Main Street Improvements

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that the firm which oversaw the concept design of the Main Street improvement plan has been approved to move this project from Concept/Schematic design to full construction documents. The Board's comments from the last discussion were forwarded and have informed this design. Once the construction documents are completed the project can be put out to bid. The aim is to reclaim the excess depth in the parking lanes to increase the pedestrian area and add a more adult area, (fire pit) next to a more kid focused area (slide/tunnel). The hope is it will be an attraction, but not over-activated as was the experience with the previous splash pad element.

It will take around six weeks to go through design development, and construction documents. Then, the project could be put out to bid. Staff hopes to wrap up this project by the end of the year and not carry it forward into 2026.

CRC Pro Forma Update

Emily Krause and Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about updating the CRC pro forma. They have continued working with Jenna Katsaros of BRS. They shared information about the hours, fees as compared to Fruita, Montrose, and Durango, and revenue projections (based on the closing of the Orchard Mesa Pool (which does not have an operating agreement past 2026) and transitioning all aqua aerobics, learn to swim lessons, etc to the CRC as well as pass sales and rental revenue. The board reviewed projected operating expenses and revenues which project cost recovery at 69%. The changes are mostly due to the maintenance shift to General Services (instead of Parks and Recreation). Board members wondered how the projected cost recover compared to other centers. The other centers do have a higher rate of cost recovery. These numbers are presented with the intention of creating a conservative and realistic budget. Ken

Sherbenou shared that if the CRC were to overperform that could free up dollars to make progress on other PROS plan projects. This information is being packaged in a memo to Council and, pending their approval, will be published in the Winter Spring Parks and Recreation Activity Guide for the public.

Bill Findlay made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommend Council adoption of the pro forma as presented. The motion was seconded by Cindy Enos-Martinez and carries unanimously.

Yes - 8

No - 0

Gates at Canyon View

Ken Sherbenou shared that in response to recent vandalism, staff are installing gates at Canyon View Park to close off vehicular traffic and limit vandalism other illegal activity in the park after it closes. This decision is being communicated through this group as well as our sports user groups. The paved parking near tennis will remain open, but the gravel parking lot would be closed. The other gates will be just south of the softball area near the basketball courts.

For The Good of the Community

Board members wondered why Jurassic Flats is now blocked off. Ken Sherbenou advised the board that there is both city-owned and private land in the area. Staff are actively working to prevent vehicular traffic on the private land.

Board members shared their appreciation for the HAWK light installation and wondered if there would be an additional HAWK light installed at the South Camp crossing. Ken will forward that request to our transportation division. There are plans for other HAWK lights in the community.

The board thanked Austin for his service and wished him well on his next adventure. Ken shared his appreciation for Austin's perspective on the board as well as his service to Parks and Recreation as a former summer camp employee.

Future Agenda Topics
Riverfront Trail

Adjourn by acclamation at 1:30

Next Meeting – July 10

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist