

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – July 10, 2025

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cindy Enos-Martinez
William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Chandler Smith
Nancy Strippel
Josh Travers
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe
Anna Stout

Board Members Absent:

Guests Present Melissa King, Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture
Cory Wilkerson, Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture

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 12:01 p.m.

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

Bill Findlay made a motion to approve the minutes from the June Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

Yes – 8

No – 0

Abstain - 1

Ken Sherbenou invited Josh Travers, as the newest board member, to introduce himself. Josh works for the Bureau of Land Management, and has been in Grand Junction for 1.5 yrs. He is the national lead for special recreation permits, making sure all BLM offices (nationwide) are following the same policy. And making sure the permitting program is streamlined and efficient. The board introduced themselves to Josh.

CRC Outdoor Facilities Design

Ken introduced Melissa King, Design Manager and Cory Wilkerson Project Manager of the community recreation center construction project to share with the board information about the outdoor amenities. In design right now are the temporary parking area, which was suggested by the board, a pedestrian promenade, a multi-use synthetic turf field (which will be set up for high school soccer and lacrosse and fenced to help contain balls). There will be seating along the

edge of the field built in a berm as well as a natural grass area for blankets and chairs. The design saves space for a future playground which could be nature play, agrarian themed or local geology/dinosaur themed. There is a food truck area to the east side. Other amenities include a drinking fountain and a concrete and soft surface trail. There is plenty of space saved for future improvements.

The Burkey Pavilion is 30' x 40' plus decorative paving around. It can be used in conjunction with the community room space. There will be seating around (not built in), landscaping, festoon lighting, and irrigated lawn space adjacent (and within the fenced in area which is accessed from the CRC).

Board members wondered about porta potty placement (with enclosure) near the field area and wondered about lighting the field. The design team is in discussion with MUSCO to determine what the appropriate number of poles would be and will stub in electricity so that lighting can be added in the future. Ken Sherbenou shared that there is a future plan for a restroom and shelter near the playground so that could be a good place for an enclosure for the interim time.

Board members wondered if making the Burkey pavilion a paid space was the best way to honor the donation of the Burkey park land which was sold to help fund this space. Ken Sherbenou reminded the board that are facilities which allow drop in use, and others which do not because of lack of staff supervision. Similar to the community rooms, requiring planned use of the Burkey Pavilion ensures that it will remain a premier amenity in good condition, which honors the family. Staff are in conversation with the Burkey Family so they are aware of the plans. When the land was sold the funding was earmarked broadly for buildout of Matchett park, rather than specifically for a pavilion. Ken Sherbenou shared that the outdoor design is being fast tracked so that construction can be completed on the same schedule as the recreation center. BRS plans to present 95% design at the August meeting.

Colorado RiverFront Trail

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that the land acquisition to complete the Riverfront trail system has been completed. Investments by GOCO for the entirety of the trail system equal \$17M in grants (not including match or local dollars from the City of Grand Junction, the Town of Palisade, the City of Fruita, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.) The trail goes from the boat ramp in Loma through to Las Colonias where the last gap exists, and then from 29 Road all the way to Palisade. Trent Prall has been working on this for many years. 27.5 Rd – 29 Rd is the only gap. The alignment would come under the underpass at 29 road and pick up the existing trail which continues to Corn Lake. Acquisition of the Skinner property was split between the City, County and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). CPW has received a grant for design and it is 99% complete. Staff are approaching One Riverfront for funding, and making grant applications for a CPW State Trails grant (due in October for awards in March.) Staff also plan to apply for a GOCO grant in July of 2025 (which awards in December) so that construction could commence in 2027. This \$3.6M project will take about a year to build. Board members wondered whether a letter of support from PRAB would be helpful. Bill Findlay made a motion

that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board support the grant application to CPW with a letter of support of the project. The motion was seconded by Cindy Enos Martinez and carried unanimously.

Yes – 9 No – 0

For The Good of the Community

Chandler Smith shared that GRIP Bouldering is open to collaborating with the City on route building and grip cleaning of the climbing wall at the recreation center. Parks & Recreation currently contracts with them for youth programming.

Bill Findlay wondered about flag football in the Grand Valley. He knows of a tournament that had a lot of participation. Emily shared there are a couple of groups offering flag football here in the valley NZone in the Spring and Fall, Parks and Recreation has a fall program and Grand Valley Football has a flag program in spring as well.

Ken Sherbenou reminded board of the topping out ceremony at CRC on August 8 at 9am.

Adjourn by acclamation at 1:15

Next Meeting – August 7

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist