

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – December 3, 2025

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Chandler Smith
Nancy Strippel
Josh Travers (left at 1pm)
Byron Wiehe
Cindy Enos-Martinez (left at 1pm)

Board Members Absent: Lisa Whalin
Anna Stout

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent
Jennifer Howard, Sr. Administrative Assistant
Larry Manchester, Recreation Supervisor
Ashley Chambers – Housing Manager

Meeting called to order by Nancy Strippel at 12:03 p.m.

Approve minutes from the November 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Byron made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Chandler and carried unanimously.

Yes – 7

No – 0

Supervisor Presentation: Larry Manchester

Larry Manchester talked with the board about his areas of Recreation and Aquatics. Larry reviewed staffing and operations/management of the pool facilities and how staff are audited by the aquatics risk management company we have retained and have been rated as Exceeds Standards on all 4 operational safety audits. Board members asked questions about retention and past employees future endeavors, OM Pool, and CRC staffing as well as expanding the Dos Rios Splash park hours & footprint. Larry also reviewed team sports and his involvement in larger events housed in Parks and Recreation facilities. The Board wondered if the facilities are nearing a point of capacity in terms of parking, activities and participation.

Founders Colony Restoration

Ken Sherbenou reminded the board about the loss of trees on the dedicated park property in the Founders Colony development. After required mitigation by the developer, Forestry has replanted trees in their place. Board members commented on the improved appearance.

Salt Flats Park

Ashley Chambers, City of Grand Junction Housing Manager, presented information to the board about the Salt Flats project. Enstrom's sold the City 27.8 acres of the site for affordable housing development. She shared that grants that have been used to fund this project. That funding determines the percentage of units that must be deemed affordable or market rate and built within ten years. The City of Grand Junction is not the developer for this project. This is a multi-phase project which does include a childcare facility. Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the designated park space and asked for board input on park design.

Shelter Naming

Ken Sherbenou reminded the board that Canyon View has the Grand, Gunnison and Tennis shelters (among others). Ken talked with the board about the tennis complex and it's development over the history of Canyon View park as well as the leadership, particularly from the tennis community that has enabled such a strong tennis presence. Ken discussed the shelter next to the 12 courts that were recently lit to get the board's input on naming it after Lena Elliott because of her leadership over the years in the tennis community. Board members Bill Findlay, Nancy Strippel, Byron Wiehe, Kyle Gardner & Chandler Smith voted in favor of renaming the Tennis Shelter to the Lena Elliott Tennis Shelter. (The other two board members had already left the meeting)

Yes – 5

No – 0

East Middle School & Washington Park

Ken Sherbenou updated the board that School District 51 is making East Middle School an Administrative Staff location. This will include changing on street parking to diagonal spaces. Board members wondered if picnic tables could be added to the park space so that employees could utilize it more readily during lunch breaks, but would prefer no park space be utilized for parking as the park is heavily used by the community.

For the Good of the Community

The board accepted the 2026 PRAB meeting dates by acclamation.

The board wondered about the status of the Barn. Ken Sherbenou shared that the discussions are still ongoing between the City Manager and the University leadership and not ready for discussion with the board at this time.

Board members wondered if there was an opening date for the Community Recreation Center. Ken shared that the project is still on track for a late 2026 opening.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:35

Next meeting January 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Howard
Senior Administrative Assistant