

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **Regular Meeting – February 5, 2026**

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite

### **Roll Call**

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

Board Members Absent:

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent  
Allison Little, Customer Service Supervisor

Guest: Michelle Berkley

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

### **Approve minutes from the January 2026 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Bill Findlay made a motion to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Byron Wiehe and carried unanimously.

Yes – 9

No – 0

### **Impact Fee Update**

Ken Sherbenou shared an update for the board on Impact Fees. The Board provided a letter to Council summarizing the discussion from the January meeting. There is a contention by the developers association that the cost per acre is too high, and they also take issue with the amount of money spent on acquisition over the last ten years. Ken reminded the board that the City operates on a 10 year capital plan, the first five years of which must be balanced and the second 5 years are projected but unfunded. Currently the first 5 years are funded based on projections including the impact fees at the previous rate.

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that land acquisition needs exist such as Dixson Park on Orchard mesa. The City used to be able to lease that space for a dollar a year, but the property was sold and the new owner declines to have the same agreement with the City. Acquisitions are driven by opportunity rather a prescribed timeline. Between 2015 and 2024, \$21M has been spent on acquisitions and improvements (with the majority of funds going towards improvements per the ordinance). The department continues to evaluate opportunities for expansion to maintain the level of service in light of the growth.

Ken Sherbenou reminded the board of the process that was used to reduce the calculation of land cost. The final report has not yet gone before Council, and the board is always invited and encouraged to speak on behalf of parks during the public comment section of the meeting.

### **Watson Island**

Ken Sherbenou updated the board on the projects in and around the open space area. Staff have utilized leaves from the leaf pick up program to help with a native revegetation project on Watson Island. That work led to the discovery that the bridge to the island needs to be replaced. Bridge replacement will be proposed as a 2027 capital improvement project.

The disc golf community has been a great partner and have helped with improvements to the disc golf course on Watson Island to increase the level of play and make it a great course. The department has really appreciated the partnership.

### **Pecos League**

Ken Sherbenou reminded the board about the Pecos League proposal to bring an 18 home game summer baseball season baseball league to Suplizio Field this summer. The League intends to have the community name the team and will have a number of theme nights including a Fire Department vs Police Department night. There is a minimum guaranteed payment of \$700 per game paid after each game, plus security deposit, 2% seat tax, and is projected at approximately a \$60,000 fiscal impact. Staff are excited about the opportunity to open up the field for other uses. This has been approved for a one-year opportunity.

### **CDBG – Columbine and Westlake**

Anna Stout talked with the board about why the Council has decided to direct these Community Development Block Grant funds towards City projects rather than to smaller community organizations. Because of the reporting required to the federal government having smaller grants to non-profits were taking an inordinate amount of staff time to report back to the federal government. Council decided that it was better to focus these funds on larger, mostly transportation, projects like safe routes to school and some dollars carved out for parks that consolidate the staff time for reporting. City Council has other funds that can be granted to smaller community organizations with less complicated reporting requirements.

At West Lake disc golf baskets have been expanded, curbing to further define the holes, wood chips have been added, and concrete pads have been added for trash cans. Additional trees have been planted, irrigation improvements are being made, and the turf will be reseeded at the completion of the irrigation improvements.

At Columbine, curbing will be added around the volleyball courts (where additional sand has been added) and netting will be added between the two softball fields. Staff are working on leveling the field so that it makes a good space for soccer teams to use for practice.

### **CMU Football Facility Proposal Update**

Anna Stout shared with the board that Council has voted 6 – 1 for staff to work on the agreement with CMU. Details that are being worked out include CMU's role in replacing the turf and taking on the maintenance of the turf, relocating and replacing the jumbotron (though both would remain City assets). Their facility would be located at the south and around the west side of the existing facility. The public access to the track and high school usage would remain intact. The only use that is really impacted is the Barn, and the intention is that the CRC will be open before the construction on the Barn begins so that current use could be transferred.

### **CRC Update**

Ken shared with board updates on the jump tower. It was initially designed for a 5m and 3m platform, but upon further review it does not appear that a 5m platform can be accommodated in

the pool. Staff are evaluating other add alternates to install in place of a jump tower. Under consideration are the outdoor hot tub or the zip rail. The 1m platform and the 3m platform do still exist.

The fitness equipment and furniture are in procurement currently. Staff are planning on a trailer on-site in May for staff to use as office space. Passes go on sale June 8. Ken wondered if the board would like another tour of the facility.

Board members wondered if Mesa County not moving into the former Faith Heights church building would be affecting the Community Recreation Center. Ken Sherbenou advised the board that it will not affect the CRC. Unfortunately, the affordable housing project at the north end of Matchett park is not moving forward at this time. The housing authority is at capacity currently, but having this location identified as a place for affordable housing is important.

### **For The Good of the Community**

Board members do wonder about the future of the Orchard Mesa Pool. Ken Sherbenou shared that the article in the Daily Sentinel was accurate. Board members shared that it was eye opening to see the subsidy required, per visit, to operate the facility. Ken advised the board that the current direction is to seek out partners, and then work towards asking voters via ballot question about creating a recreation district to fund its operation.

### **Future Agenda Item**

A tour of the CRC

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:18pm

Next Meeting – March 5, 2025

Respectfully submitted,  
Ali Little, Customer Service Supervisor