

**Parks Improvement Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2005**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dan Cummings at 7:02 a.m.

Roll Call

Parks Improvement Advisory Board:

Dan Cummings
Tillie Bishop
Lou Grasso
Steve Phillips
Doug Thomason
Andy Rodriguez

Ex-officio Members:

Sue Gormley

Parks & Recreation Staff:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Tillie Bishop moved to approve the April 20, 2005 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes.
Lou Grasso seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks Improvement Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Tillie Bishop moved to approve the June 1, 2005 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes.
Steve Phillips seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks Improvement Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 3: Concessions Overview

Joe Stevens introduced Traci Altergott, who replaced Mari Steinbach as the Recreation Superintendent. Traci Altergott is also currently the interim Manager for Two Rivers Convention Center and is responsible for overseeing concession operations. Traci Altergott stated Two Rivers Convention Center took over the concession operations as of January 1, 2005, and was able to work through many of the logistical issues during the spring season. Traci Altergott reported she and Donna Redd had met with, both, School District #51 Athletic Director Steve Phillips, and Mesa State College Athletic Director Nick Adams to discuss their concession needs and expectations for the upcoming season. In addition, Donna Redd met with several other Athletic Directors for the same reason. Ms. Altergott said the response was very favorable. Ms. Altergott stated Two Rivers Convention Center intends to set up satellite stations on the Northwest side of the football field, in addition to the main concession stand, in hopes of

alleviating the long lines and providing faster service. Traci Altergott said Donna Redd is also working on bringing some new exciting options, including a coffee/cappuccino/hot chocolate operation. Ms. Altergott stated Two Rivers Convention Center's goal is to offer a larger variety of foods and beverages, realizing that the weather will often impact their sales. Tillie Bishop commended Traci, Donna, and all of the staff, saying he thought the services and vendors at JUCO were outstanding, and that they were now providing an atmosphere Grand Junction has not seen in the past. Dan Cummings echoed Mr. Bishop's comments, saying the variety under the stands made it feel like a hometown community, and that the fans loved the fact the focus was not on just one small area. Traci Altergott asked if the Board members had received any feedback on pricing. None had been received. It was pointed out that concession prices were still well under what the local movie theaters charge.

Joe Stevens reported Mesa State College is planning to do a promotional campaign with hopes of encouraging more families to attend their football games. The college has requested the Parks & Recreation Department administratively amend the normal \$1.25 head tax and allow children under 12, who are accompanied by an adult, into the games free of charge. Mr. Stevens said the Parks & Recreation Department has agreed to the change and will extend the same option to School District #51.

Item 4: Stadium Capital Improvement Plan

Dan Cummings said that, due to his illness, he was unable to follow-up with all of the Lincoln Park stadium user groups, in hopes of exploring options for funding the stadium plan; however, Mr. Cummings stated he still thinks it is important to continue in that direction. Andy Rodriguez reported Mesa State College has already finalized their budget for the next fiscal year. Steve Phillips stated the School District is going to be finalizing their budget soon, and would need to know ASAP if there is going to be a request for a financial commitment. Lou Grasso asked what the main "target" will be for the stadium plan. Joe Stevens responded the plan was already broken into priorities, and that the first priority, replacing the sound system, has already been completed. Another top priority is the demolition of the core area between the baseball and football seating, which would be the "heart" of the renovation project. Mr. Stevens stated the replacement of the football field with artificial turf is also on the list of priorities, and there has been some discussion with local groups and organizations about hosting a fund raiser to accomplish this goal. Mr. Stevens reported there currently are not any funds in the City CIP allocated for stadium improvements. Joe Stevens said JUCO has indicated they would like to contribute towards a large community project and have expressed interest in the stadium improvement plan. Mr. Stevens discussed the possibility of applying for a GOCO grant, if there was enough lead time and commitment from user groups. Joe Stevens said that by installing artificial turf, the grant application could be associated with "water conservation", which might possibly draw more attention to the application. Tillie Bishop stated it might be a possibility to obtain a Colorado Water Conservation grant as well. Mr. Stevens discussed several benefits of artificial turf, including the ability to schedule back to back games, regardless of rainy weather, and said the cost for artificial turf has remained the same and/or decreased due to competition. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a larger track and how it might make sense to relocate the track when installing artificial turf, allowing space for a soccer field. Andy Rodriguez stated Mesa State College currently has a concept drawing for their facility that includes soccer fields.

The Board members agreed the stadium improvement plan should be approached in phases, with the first step being to identify what specific project/improvement they want to pursue, then presenting the project to the user groups with the estimated costs. Lou Grasso stated the Parks Improvement Advisory Board needed to determine what percentage each user group should have to commit to, regardless of what the cost would be. Andy Rodriguez stated Mesa State College might have a timing issue, as they are waiting to see what happens during the November election regarding Referendum C and D. Dan Cummings stated a pledge period might be a good option for the user groups. Joe Stevens said, should there be enough commitment from the user groups, there could be grant opportunities with El Pomar, Bacon, Gates, etc. Mr. Stevens stated Mayor Hill has recently said that unless the user groups are willing to make a commitment, the stadium plan will not go forward in the current City CIP. Don Hobbs said it would take approximately 6 months to completely install the artificial turf, stating in order for the field to be completed before the 2006 fall football season, the project would need to start immediately after graduation ceremonies. Don Hobbs expressed the importance of notifying the organizations who host annual events on the field as soon as possible (Shrine Circus, Relay for Life, etc.), in order to give them enough time to relocate their events.

Tillie Bishop moved for the Parks and Recreation staff to proceed by presenting the prioritization list, along with the costs, to the appropriate user groups and at the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting, in an attempt to obtain financial commitments. Tillie Bishop also moved for Lou Grasso to be included in the presentation process. Steve Phillips seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks Improvement Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 5: Parks Improvement Advisory Board Recognition Update

Tillie Bishop discussed the Parks Improvement Advisory Board recognition criteria, previously recorded at the June 1, 2006 Board meeting. (Please see June 1, 2006 minutes – Page 2) Mr. Bishop stated the criteria is still in draft form and needs to be refined and improved upon as necessary. Tillie Bishop reported Jamie Hamilton, JUCO, plans to move forward with the "Homerun Alley" recognition program, and that JUCO's recognition program will be an excellent addition to the park. Mr. Bishop expressed the importance of Parks Improvement Advisory Board and JUCO working together in order to coordinate the recognition of individuals who may deserve both awards. Tillie Bishop also suggested opening up the nomination process to the entire community, which would assist in preventing someone from being overlooked. Mr. Bishop requested the Parks Improvement Advisory Board members to review the list and make any criteria recommendations. Chairman Cummings suggested a subcommittee be formed, inviting Jim Eisenhower to serve as a committee member. Lou Grasso stated the Board should also designate a smaller group as a selection/screening committee. Joe Stevens discussed the need for a "catchy" theme, using JUCO's "Homerun Alley" as an example. Joe Stevens suggested the Parks Improvement Advisory Board come up with their own theme, in hopes of capturing what the recognition is for. Tillie Bishop requested the Board members give some thought to a recognition theme and bring their suggestions to the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting.

Item 6: Other Business

Joe Stevens said the City is currently reviewing the preliminary budget, and said one item being considered is the replacement of the sign at the corner of 12th and North Ave. Mr. Stevens said the Parks & Recreation Department has received a few complaints from visitors regarding the sign, expressing what a great facility Grand Junction has, but not understanding why the City has not invested in a more modern sign. Joe Stevens stated the City has asked him to request the Parks Improvement Advisory Board consider contributing \$60,000 (1/2 of the estimated \$120,000 total) towards a new LED sign. Don Hobbs reported the Parks Improvement Advisory Board would have an estimated \$193,200 at the end of 2006, assuming everyone pays their dues. Andy Rodriguez asked if Mesa State College would be allowed to advertise some of their events on the sign, stating, at one time, the college was considering purchasing their own sign. Joe Stevens responded the current sign's priority list, in order, is 1) Stadium Events, 2) Barn Events, and 3) Other Events. Mr. Stevens said it may be a possibility for the college to list their events, providing space allows, and that he would be happy to discuss the issue further. A brief discussion ensued regarding the schematics and City code limitations. Mr. Stevens said the new sign would be comparable to the new sign at Two Rivers Convention Center. Joe Stevens said he will request the Park Planner present two or three design options for the Parks Improvement Advisory Board to review. Tillie Bishop requested the sign be discussed further at the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting.

Dan Cummings requested the Parks Improvement Advisory Board meetings change to lunch meetings rather than early morning meetings. Discussion ensued. The next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting will be on Monday, November 21, 2005 at 11:30 a.m.

Andy Rodriguez requested the dates for Mesa State College graduation ceremonies be confirmed and approved by the Parks Improvement Advisory Board. Don Hobbs responded that Mesa State College only has to submit the dates to the Parks & Recreation Administrative office and it will be taken care of. Joe Stevens indicated that the Department already has the date on hold for Mesa State College, pending confirmation from the college.

Item 7: Future Agenda Items

Tillie Bishop requested there be a report on JUCO at the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting.

Item 8: Adjourn

Lou Grasso moved to adjourn the meeting. Tillie Bishop seconded.

Unanimously Approved: Yes 6 No 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist