

Parks Improvement Advisory Board

February 9, 2011

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Bernie Goss at 11:42 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Harry Butler
Tom Kenyon
Lena Elliott
Janet Rowland

Stadium Members Present:

Jamie Hamilton
Janet Rowland

Stadium Members Absent:

Paul Cain
Bruce Hill

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Rob Schoeber, Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist

City Finance Staff Present:

Jay Valentine, Finance Director

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jamie Hamilton moved to approve the August 31, 2010 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes. Tom Kenyon seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks Improvement Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

Item 3: Discussion of Bylaws

Jamie Hamilton expressed concern regarding Article 6, which states members may withdraw from the Board upon giving six months notice, stating he would like to see it changed to not provide the ability for members to opt out. Mr. Hamilton discussed the importance of being committed to the Board, as this group continues to be able to do things outside the limitations of government, often times despite a poor economy. He stated his concern was not necessarily whether or not the member can commit monetarily, but more importantly that they commit to the “membership” aspect. Janet Rowland questioned why the County is involved at all, stating the situation is similar to the County recently opting out of the agreement for Orchard Mesa Community Center Swimming Pool. Ms. Rowland stated while these types of arrangements may have made sense 25 years ago, this is no longer the case. She said by in large, counties are not in the parks and recreation business, and the County does not own any Grand Junction parks and recreation facilities, nor are they designed or funded for that. Discussion ensued regarding the numerous benefits of the County being involved in the Board, including the emphasis that is placed on community partnerships when applying for grants. The Board members talked about the

uniqueness of the Board, and how the collaborative effort is phenomenal when the participating organizations come together to support projects. Tom Kenyon expressed the importance of the County's partnership, stating it strengthens grant applications, and has provided a solid group over the years that he would hate to see diminished in any way. The Board members agreed that the County's membership brings great credibility on a national level. The concern of creating "silos" within the community was also discussed with Rob Schoeber providing a great example of the City attempting to eliminate the separation in the community with the decision to discontinue charging separate rates for residents and nonresidents. The City's intent was to combine efforts with the County to result in a better community. Harry Butler stated the Board benefits everyone in the valley, from Palisade to Fruita, and that he would hate to see the County separate themselves from this group.

Mr. Schoeber suggested the bylaws include an option for "additional" memberships, should another local organization want to join in the future. Jamie Hamilton agreed, stating he prefers the opportunity to allow for new memberships, and also stated this was the time for the County to decide whether they are in or out. Jane Rowland suggested the Board create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to list the options of opting in or out, as such a document could be renewed each year if necessary, rather than having the specific membership listed in the bylaws making it more difficult to change. Ms. Rowland also suggested the MOU include verbiage that each organization is required to send a back-up representative in their place if unable to attend the meetings.

The Board members discussed the recommended name change, with many concerns regarding the words "Grand Junction" and "Athletic Facilities". The concern regarding "Grand Junction" was related to the fact the Board does not limit projects to City limits only, and the Board would prefer for the name to be broader than "Athletic Facilities". Lena Elliott stated the projects are about investing in people, not facilities. The Board agreed the name should be revisited at the next meeting.

The decision was made to "defer" discussions regarding the bylaws until Janet Rowland has had time to discuss the County's membership with her Board of Directors and report back. Janet Rowland stated she would contact Rob Schoeber within the next two weeks with the County's final decision.

Bernie Goss expressed concerns regarding Article 8 on page 5, stating it is extremely beneficial to have an at large resident representing the City as a whole, versus strictly members who are tied to an entity. Mr. Goss stated this additional member has an opportunity to be a liaison to more people than just those involved with the organizations who make up the membership, and that it provides even greater credibility within the community. Discussion ensued.

Item 4: Project Updates

Lena Elliott reported she was attending the walk through today for the college tennis courts, and stated Mesa State will be hosting the state tennis tournament in May 2012. The plans should be finalized in December 2011. Rob Schoeber stated he and Larry Manchester had recently attended an award banquet in Denver to accept the Intermountain Tennis Association's "Outstanding Tennis Organization" award. Rob Schoeber said there were many players involved in winning this award and that he had accepted the award on behalf of the entire community.

Rob Schoeber also reported the \$8.4 million stadium project is moving full steam ahead, with the designs scheduled for review on Friday. At this time, all but \$200,000 has already been committed through bonding or donations made directly to JUCO. In addition, there are grant applications out for almost \$700,000, with hopes the additional money can be used to furnish the press box. Jamie Hamilton discussed the uniqueness of this project, as it is a nonprofit organization spearheading the payment, which is proving to be a very collaborative and successful effort. Construction is scheduled to begin immediately after JUCO with a completion date of May 12, 2012, just in time for graduations.

The bonding regulations of the stadium were briefly discussed, as they will not allow any naming of specific areas (press boxes, stadium, etc.). Jay Valentine stated the tax exempt status restricts the naming process at the new facility.

The Park Operations maintenance shop has recently moved to the Riverside Parkway building. This relocation has always been a goal for the department in order to address safety and congestion issues. The now vacant area in Lincoln Park will be used as a construction site for the stadium project.

Item 5: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist