

# **Parks Improvement Advisory Board**

## **January 16, 2009**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Bernie Goss at 7:37 a.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present:                   Bernie Goss  
  Doug Thomason  
  Harry Butler  
  Lena Elliott  
  Sue Gormley (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:                   Craig Meis

Stadium Members Present:               Bruce Hill

Stadium Members Absent:               Paul Cain  
  Jamie Hamilton

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:     Rob Schoeber, Director  
  Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
  Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent  
  Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor

### **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Doug Thomason moved to approve the June 10, 2008 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes. Lena Elliott seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks Improvement Advisory Board:    Yes 4   No 0

### **Item 3: Meet the New Parks and Recreation Director, Rob Schoeber**

Bernie Goss introduced Grand Junction Parks and Recreation's new Director, Rob Schoeber. Mr. Schoeber provided a brief synopsis of his background and expressed his excitement to live in and serve the City of Grand Junction.

### **Item 4: Lincoln Park Update**

Rob Schoeber discussed ACE Golf's proposal for the Lincoln Park Golf Course, in which they want to modify the existing course. Mr. Schoeber said Mike Nathe, a representative of ACE Golf had met with him shortly after he began working for the City. Rob Schoeber said he took a "hands off" approach during the meeting, and attempted to steer the group in the right direction. Mr. Schoeber said the group has held a couple of public meetings; however, has not made a formal request to the City Council. Lena Elliott expressed concern regarding the amount of money the City has spent on the Lincoln Park master plan, and asked if ACE Golf had ever requested to review the master plan. Mrs. Elliott expressed concern that the organization may be focusing on their own mission versus attempting to tie in their proposal with the park's overall plan. Bruce Hill

stated the original master plan had three different golf options, of which City Council rejected all three to avoid upsetting the users. Mr. Hill stated the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board had strongly advised ACE Golf to talk to the users prior to proceeding, and, to date, they have not done so. Doug Thomason said ACE Golf has indicated they will pay all costs; however, they appear not to have the funding at this time. Bruce Hill asked, if ACE Golf has the means to solely fund the project, why not build somewhere other than Lincoln Park. Harry Butler agreed, questioning why ACE Golf would not want to build their facility in an undeveloped area. Mr. Butler also expressed concern regarding Lincoln Park being a “green” area, stating once you lose the green areas, you often can’t get them back. Harry Butler stated the green area allows for multiple uses and is a significant part of Grand Junction’s history. Bruce Hill asked if a six hole learning center will truly benefit the School District and/or Mesa State’s youth programs. Lena Elliott said she would follow-up with Mesa State to determine how beneficial the learning center would truly be.

### **Item 5: Special Projects Update**

Rob Schoeber distributed a summary of ongoing projects. (See attached) Mr. Schoeber said the new restrooms at Duck Pond Park have been completed, stating there are a couple remaining safety issues that will need to be addressed, and the landscaping will be completed once the weather turns nicer. Completed projects also include the new restrooms at Sherwood Park, the new waterslide at Lincoln Park-Moyer Pool, and the painting of the bleachers at Suplizio Field. Upcoming projects include the installation of new playgrounds at Duck Pond, Williams, and Spring Valley II Parks, and the replacement of the irrigation at the cemetery, which will allow the crews to discontinue dragging hoses. In addition, the six new tennis courts at Canyon View Park are approximately 90% finished, with only the surfacing still to go once the weather permits. Mr. Schoeber also discussed the remodel of the parks administration office and the parks shops, allowing for a more conducive and efficient working atmosphere for the employees. Both remodel projects are being completed in-house by the parks crews.

Rob Schoeber reported future projects will include some additional painting at Suplizio Field and at Stocker Stadium. Traci Wieland reported on the upcoming improvements at Melrose Park, currently scheduled for completion in July. Mrs. Wieland stated the City has received a Community Development Block Grant to be used towards replacing the restrooms. In addition, the Department’s intent is to preserve the rocket by utilizing the 1% for the Arts program. Suggestions have included power coating the rocket and placing it on a high pedestal. Unfortunately, due to safety issues, the rocket can no longer continue being used as a play structure. Mrs. Wieland stated the Department recently held a community meeting, to provide the neighborhood with an opportunity to give their input regarding the park’s improvements. The public’s feedback included comments such as, relocating the restrooms/shelter structure, removing some of the bushes, and the need for additional parking. Traci Wieland stated the Department intends to host another neighborhood meeting in February.

Rob Schoeber reported the Department is considering paving the triangle area between the tennis courts and the baseball field at Canyon View Park. Mr. Schoeber also discussed the plans for a new cemetery shop, stating the project has currently been placed on hold for capital development; however, staff is still moving forward with the design and bids.

**Item 6: Other Business**

Bruce Hill stated JUCO had recently paid an architect for a more detailed Lincoln Park stadium master plan, which includes replacing the stands, press box, and concession stands. The plan would also consist of installing an elevator, making the stadium ADA compliant. Bruce Hill discussed the difficulty of determining what the actual ADA requirements are, stating the capacity must be based on events on the football “and” baseball side, regardless that both sides are not scheduled simultaneously. Bruce Hill said he would like to discuss the options further at the February Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting.

Rob Schoeber reported his first tasks as the new Director was to personally meet with every Parks and Recreation employee to evaluate the department’s needs. Mr. Schoeber said the meetings assisted him in his decision not to replace the Assistant Director and to hire a Parks Superintendent instead. Rob Schoeber highly commended Traci Wieland for her hard work and dedication during the past six months, while serving as the interim Parks Superintendent. Mr. Schoeber said Traci did an outstanding job opening the communications between parks crews, staff, and administration. Lena Elliott stated Mike Vendegna also did an incredible job as the interim Director. Bruce Hill agreed, commending both Traci Wieland and Mike Vendegna, expressing it felt as though the department simply shifted gears and moved forward.

Sue Gormley reported the final four phases of Long’s Family Memorial Park have been completed. Ms. Gormley also discussed the administration contract, stating Grand Mesa Youth Soccer no longer wishes to continue scheduling for the park. Sue Gormley said the County is hoping the City may be interested in resuming the previous arrangement. Bruce Hill said, while he is not speaking on behalf of the City Manager, he encourages the City and County to reach an agreement, expressing the community deserves to have one stop shopping (one phone number and consistent rates for both City and County parks). Discussion ensued. Traci Wieland stated the City Manager’s direction to staff was that the decision must be made by City Council.

Bruce Hill thanked Mesa State College for the track at Grand Junction High School. Lena Elliott expressed how fortunate we are to live in a community where such strong partnerships between the City, County, School District, and Mesa State College exist.

**Item 7: Future Agenda Items**

Lincoln Park Stadium Project

**Item 8: Adjourn**

Lena Elliott moved to adjourn. Harry Butler seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist