

# **Parks Improvement Advisory Board**

## **April 14, 2009**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Bernie Goss at 7:39 a.m.**

#### Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent:

Stadium Members Present: Bruce Hill  
Paul Cain  
Craig Meis

Stadium Members Absent: Jamie Hamilton

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Schoeber, Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist

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

Doug Thomason moved to approve the March 3, 2009 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes. Lena Elliott seconded.

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

### **Item 3: School District Request**

Rob Schoeber distributed copies of the April a recent request from School District 51 (See attached). Paul Cain discussed the safety issues at Grand Junction High School, stating the baseball players are consistently hitting balls into the tennis court area. Mr. Cain said the School District has been very fortunate, as there have not been any serious injuries up to this point. The School District is requesting a \$5,000 contribution from the Parks Improvement Advisory Board for the installation of a 30 ft high (chain link) fence to protect the tennis players and/or spectators. In addition, a 6 ft fence will be installed along the outfield to protect the baseball players from the concrete drop off between the field and the tennis courts. The total cost of the project is \$31,927; JUCO has agreed to pay \$5,000 and the School District will pay the remaining balance. Lena Elliott also expressed the importance of the fencing, stating the field was not originally designed for “today’s” baseball players, as the strength of the players and the quality of the bats have significantly improved over the years. Paul Cain said the School District has reviewed other alternatives and have determined the fencing is the cheapest option. Redesigning the field and/or location of the dugouts is not an option for the high school, due to the cost. Craig Meis asked if the

School Districts received any additional bids. Paul Cain said Taylor Fence currently holds the “annual” bid for School District projects. Bruce Hill stated, in addition to the safety aspects, it is important the School District has the ability to schedule simultaneous athletic events.

Doug Thomason moved to approve the School District’s request for a \$5,000 contribution to be used towards fencing at Grand Junction High School in order to protect the tennis players and/or spectators. Lena Elliott seconded.

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

Harry Butler and Paul Cain abstained from voting.

#### **Item 4: Stadium Improvements**

Rob Schoeber reported JUCO is contributing up to \$15,000 for additional painting at the Lincoln Park stadium. Mr. Schoeber said City staff painted the baseball side of the stadium last fall, and now plans to have the entrance (archways, posts, etc.) repainted before JUCO season. In addition, JUCO has requested a ticket booth be set up near the outfield to prevent people from coming into the games without paying. Bruce Hill suggested the ticket booth be “portable” to allow for use during other various sporting events. Rob Schoeber said staff is working on getting bids in hopes of having the booth installed before JUCO season.

Bruce Hill thanked Lena Elliott for her efforts with regards to the Lincoln Park Stadium Improvement Plan, which he presented at the March 3, 2009 Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting. Bruce Hill and Jamie Hamilton recently presented the plan to Tim Foster at Mesa State who was also very supportive of the improvements. Lena Elliott said the plan was also shown to Charlie Monfort, of the Colorado Rockies. Bruce Hill said the next step is to present the plan to Mesa County and School District 51, in order to determine if funding is a possibility. Bruce Hill discussed JUCO’s current contract, stating they may be able to extend the contract once the NJCAA has hired a new Executive Director. Craig Meis said he is happy to support the plan, and discussed the importance of the contributing organizations to “plan ahead” for the project.

#### **Item 5: Board Structure**

Bernie Goss discussed the confusion regarding the structure of the Parks Improvement Advisory Board, which has dramatically changed since originally established in the 1960’s. Rob Schoeber said the conflicting information was partially discovered when he was trying to obtain a better understanding of the Board’s operations. Mr. Schoeber said the historical information regarding the Board’s membership is very confusing and often difficult to follow. Rob Schoeber expressed, if the Board agrees the current structure is working, perhaps the bylaws should be revised to reflect the existing format. Bruce Hill briefly discussed the original design and intent of the Board, stating the structure allows the organizations who pay dues to have an active vote with regards to project expenditures. Mr. Hill said, at times, the Board has been confused with “City” boards; however, it should continue to be a separate entity. Bruce Hill said the current structure works very well and any issues regarding the Board’s structure should be addressed by the Board itself. Rob Schoeber agreed, and briefly discussed the importance of the structure being consistent when filing the 501c3 with the State of Colorado. Lena Elliott also said the current structure appears to be working, stating the Board contributes a large amount of money to the community, and “should not be changed if it is not broken”.

Doug Thomason said the Board may want to consider changing the bylaws in order to clarify the difference between the “Board” members and the “Stadium Committee” members. Lena Elliott stated the beauty of the Board’s structure is that the organizations each get to appoint who they want representing their organizations, and that the entities who pay annual dues get to vote. Bernie Goss said the Stadium Committee, in reality, contributes more money than the other organizations, and yet does not get to vote on all agenda items. Craig Meis asked who the Stadium Committee members are, in which Rob Schoeber responded the current members appear to be Paul Cain (School District), Jamie Hamilton (JUCO), Craig Meis (Mesa County), and Bruce Hill. Doug Thomason asked why the City would not be on both the Board and the Stadium Committee. Bernie Goss stated, according to the bylaws, there are also not enough officers, as there should also be a Treasurer and Secretary. Discussion ensued with the Board agreeing there is some confusion regarding the structure.

Rob Schoeber discussed the possibility of separating the Board even further from the City if the Board members desired to do so. Craig Meis said the separation shouldn’t be necessary as long as the funding continues to be tracked appropriately. Rob Schoeber also reported he has received several requests from people who are interested in donating money to the City for specific projects and/or amenities. Mr. Schoeber said this might be a great opportunity to create a foundation within the Board for holding the funds and completing these types of projects. Bruce Hill discussed the importance of keeping the Board’s traditional concept in mind when considering whether or not to make changes. Lena Elliott, Bruce Hill, and Bernie Goss volunteered to serve as a subcommittee to review the bylaws and make recommendations regarding any structure modifications, if deemed necessary.

#### **Item 6: Other Business**

Rob Schoeber passed around pictures of the light pole that blew over at the Kronkright softball complex. Mr. Schoeber reported City staff had the remaining poles sonic tested, in which a large number of the poles were found to be significantly deteriorated. At this time, all of the poles have been taken down and all night games have been rescheduled until such time the poles can be replaced. Mr. Schoeber reported the replacement poles will have a more advanced design, in which the weight of the pole is dispersed more evenly avoiding the existing stress points at the base of the pole.

#### **Item 7: Future Agenda Items**

Doug Thomason reported this was his last Board meeting as a City Council member. Bernie Goss thanked Doug Thomason for his service and dedication to the Board, as well as his involvement in the community. *Good luck Doug – we will miss you!*

#### **Item 8: Adjourn**

Doug Thomason moved to adjourn. Harry Butler seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist