

## **Parks Improvement Advisory Board**

### **June 7, 2007**

#### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Joe Stevens at 7:29 a.m.**

##### Roll Call

Board Members Present:	Doug Thomason Bernie Goss Ron Rowley Sue Gormley (Ex-Officio)
Board Members Absent:	Lena Elliott Steve Acquafresca
Stadium Committee:	Steve Phillips Bruce Hill Joe Stevens
Stadium Members Absent:	Jamie Hamilton
Parks & Recreation Staff Present:	Joe Stevens, Director Don Hobbs Hobbs, Assistant Director Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Guests:	Dennis Teeters John Shaver, City Attorney Erik Van De Boogaard, Kiewit Building Group Brian Young, Kiewit Building Group

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

Doug Thomason moved to approve the March 21, 2007 and March 30, 2007 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes. Ron Rowley seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks Improvement Advisory Board:    Yes 3        No 0

#### **Item 3: Election of Officers**

Joe Stevens opened the floor for nominations for the Chair position, stating the eligible Board members for nomination were City of Grand Junction Representative Doug Thomason, Mesa County representative Steve Acquafresca, At Large member Bernie Goss, Mesa State College representative Lena Elliott, and School District #51 representative Ron Rowley. Doug Thomason nominated Bernie Goss as Chair. Ron Rowley seconded. Nominations were closed and Bernie

Goss was elected as the new Parks Improvement Advisory Board Chair by a unanimous vote. Congratulations Bernie!

Chairman Bernie Goss opened the floor for nominations for the Vice-chair position. No nominations were received. Bernie Goss then opened the floor for any volunteers for the Vice-chair position. Doug Thomason volunteered and was appointed Vice-chair of the Parks Improvement Advisory Board by acclamation.

#### **Item 4: Synthetic Turf Agreement and Timeline**

Joe Stevens reported the Parks & Recreation staff has worked diligently with legal staff and Kiewit Building Group (KBG) to put together a final contract for the synthetic turf. Mr. Stevens stated he had invited representatives from KBG (Erik Van De Boogaard and Brian Young) to today's meeting, in order to answer any questions Board members may have. Joe Stevens also said he had invited Dennis Teeters to attend today's meeting, in order to discuss the track and field needs. Brian Young presented two different options (plans A and B) for the field layout, stating the high jump will remain in the same location it is now in both plans. Dennis Teeters asked what type of material would be used for the runways. Brian Young responded the entire "D" area would be asphalt, with the exception of the competition areas. Mr. Young said the material could also be one of the two track surfacing samples he brought with him to the meeting. Dennis Teeters expressed his concern regarding the length of the runways, stating the competitors are currently standing under the South goal post before their approach, and said the new plans would crowd the high jump competitors with the long and triple jump competitors. Mr. Teeters stated the existing track and field layout is the best scenario for everyone involved (management, competitors, and spectators). Brian Young stated he would research the NCAA rules to determine the space requirements for the runways. Bruce Hill questioned why the two plans included moving everything to the South end of the field. Shawn Cooper responded there is a concern the sand will get in the turf; therefore the resolution was to relocate the pits to the South. Joe Stevens suggested another alternative of leaving one pit on the North end and moving the other pit back towards the storage area. Doug Thomason expressed concern about splitting the two pits across the field, stating the kids competing in the long jump are generally the same kids competing in the high jump. Shawn Cooper stated a conflict with the current layout is that it eliminates the ability to ever put a soccer field on the artificial turf field. Joe Stevens reported the department had been approached by GMYSA requesting the new field be lined for soccer as well, stating there is still a growing need for additional soccer fields. Mr. Stevens stated, while the current plans do not include painting soccer lines or list soccer as a priority, it may reach a point down the line in which an additional soccer field may be desirable. Brian Young stated he would explore whether or not it is a possibility to cover the pits when not in use, in order to allow for the current layout to remain an option. Shawn Cooper stated it might be worthwhile to move the pits from the West end, allowing additional options for the field, such as soccer, la crosse, rugby, etc., all of which require a little more width than football. Dennis Teeters stated any movement of the track and field events from the West end to the North or South ends will cause crowding and create problems for the competitors. Joe Stevens stated there may be a third option, in which he has recently asked Shawn Cooper to create, depending on the outcome of the NFL grant application. Mr. Stevens said this plan has incorporated integrated concepts of the stadium master plan. Joe Stevens stated, should the Parks Improvement Advisory Board be successful in obtaining the grant, it could potentially be up to \$250,000, which would free up already pledged funds for additional capital improvements. Shawn Cooper discussed a few of the changes/additions

included in the third option, such as 1) the possibility of relocating the West ticket booth to the South end, which would improve safety by eliminating people waiting in line on 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 2) Rework the East stands to allow entrance from underneath rather than the spectators walking in front of stands, 3) Extending the fence around the entire facility in order to create more of a “one complex” atmosphere, 4) Closing off the driveway on the North side of the Barn, with the possibility of relocating both jump pits to that area, 5) Installation of a brick and a wrought iron wall along the North side to clean up the area while still allowing for clear visibility from North Avenue (keeping the sense of security). Joe Stevens stated this third option is conceptual with the Sink, Combs, Dethlefs stadium master plan. Bruce Hill expressed concern that the other field uses being discussed may be shifting the Board’s focus, stating there are a variety of other locations that can be used for soccer fields. Mr. Hill also asked if now is the time to "center" the entire field in preparations for the future implementation of the entire stadium plan. Dennis Teeters discussed the option of closing the barn driveway, expressing concern that if the area is asphalted it could reach 130 degree temperatures during the regional meets in May. Mr. Teeters asked if the area could be turfed instead. Shawn Cooper responded yes, the area can be turfed; however, cost is a concern. Mr. Cooper said "painting" the asphalt is still an option, which would also help reduce the heat. Dennis Teeters discussed his concerns with the Barn being rented during track meets. Mr. Teeters stated his preference is to keep the track and field layout the same as it is now, stating there is currently a surplus of soccer fields in the valley, but only "one" track and field facility. Dennis Teeters said he did not feel the proposed alterations to make the football field a "multi-use" field would benefit the competitors. Steve Phillips said he agrees with Dennis Teeters, stating the current layout is still the best scenario until another track facility can be built in Grand Junction. Mr. Phillips said he would like to see the Board pursue options for keeping the track and field elements in their current locations and finding a way to cover the pits and runways during other events. Dennis Teeters stated he did like the idea of closing the driveway North of the Barn. Shawn Cooper stated it would be fairly cheap to remove the existing asphalt, and extend the fence to include the Barn element as a part of the stadium facility. Mr. Cooper stated both runways would easily fit in the Barn area. Discussion continued with the possibility of turfing the “D” areas in place of the asphalt. Shawn Cooper said he will research the cost involved and report back to the Board. Mr. Cooper also suggested the possibility of installing a rubber pad the entire length of the field on the West side for both runways to use, which could also serve as a pad for the football players to stand on. Shawn Cooper stated the material for the covers would have to be durable enough for spectators to walk across, and to accommodate tractor/vehicle access if necessary. Don Hobbs stated the rubberized surface would have to be covered during football season, in order to prevent the football players from tearing it up.

Shawn Cooper provided the following summary of the Board's recommendations:

- The long jump and triple jump will remain on the West side
- A permanent rubber surface will be installed along the entire West side
- The entire "D" area will be asphalt with the possibility of painting the asphalt to reduce the heat
- The high jump will be pushed to the center of the South end and will be enlarged (Dennis Teeters stated he would prefer a 50’ x 100’ pad, but said he will do some research on the recommended size of the approach and will follow-up with Shawn Cooper)
- The driveway on the North side of the Lincoln Park Barn will be removed during this phase, as long as cost remains within budget and the large gate remains on the West side allowing easy access for the band
- The entire South side will be rubberized with a red (same color as the track) nonporous material in order to allow for drainage (as long as the cost remains within the budget)

- Brian Young said he will research the options for covering the pits and runways

Joe Stevens stated that should the NFL grant become reality, additional field upgrades, a cover, and perhaps other stadium improvements may be possible. Discussion ensued regarding the use of bleachers on the field and the need for a protective cover underneath the bleachers. Shawn Cooper stated the artificial turf has an estimated life expectancy of eight years and asked if the Board wants to leave the field in its current location, or move it South in preparation of the stadium master plan. Bernie Goss stated the community is most likely not going to complete the master plan in the next eight years, so it didn't make sense to move the field at this time.

Steve Phillips raised concern regarding the contract with Kiewit, which currently lists a project completion date of August 31, 2007. Mr. Phillips stated the School District has football games scheduled the week before, stating he was under the understanding the completion date would be August 24, 2007. Erik Van De Boogaard stated Kiewit Building Group was also under the understanding the completion date is August 24, 2007. Mr. Van De Boogaard stated there is no change in KBG's commitment to have the project completed by the August 24, 2007 deadline.

Doug Thomason moved to proceed with all of the improvements Shawn Cooper included in his summary. Ron Rowley seconded.

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

#### **Item 5: Status of NFL Grant Opportunity**

Joe Stevens discussed the status of the outstanding NFL grant application, stating a decision should be made some time this week. Mr. Stevens said the grant monies will be earmarked towards the synthetic turf, which will then free up the other funds for additional stadium improvements. Joe Stevens stated the Denver Broncos has selected Grand Junction as the only 2007 project to support in this region.

#### **Item 6: Stadium Improvement Plan**

Joe Stevens stated the majority of the stadium improvement agenda item was discussed during the synthetic turf discussions. Mr. Stevens stated with the third option Shawn Cooper put together, the Parks and Recreation Department would be able to dress up the stadium and make some safety improvements. Bernie Goss stated he has always been very concerned about the safety issues related to the ticket booth on the West side of the stadium. Mr. Goss and Ron Rowley both agreed the ticket plaza should be the first priority, then improvements to the fencing. Steve Phillips expressed concern regarding the crumbling steps in the East stands. Shawn Cooper stated there were currently no plans to repair the steps due to lack of funding.

Bernie Goss told Sue Gormley he was very concerned as to why Mesa County chose not to participate in the stadium's synthetic turf project and also asked if the County is attempting to assist the Shrine Circus with the relocation of their event. Sue Gormley responded she is not the right person to comment on the County's synthetic turf decision, recommending Bernie Goss contact the County Commissioners directly. Mrs. Gormley stated the County is already working with the Shrine Circus for 2008.

**Item 7: Other Business**

Joe Stevens reported on the success of this year's JUCO event, stating the event had a record attendance. Mr. Stevens said the concessions sales also broke records this year, and continued increased functionality due to the numerous satellite vendors. Joe Stevens also discussed the significant maintenance changes made to the baseball field. Mr. Stevens stated the majority of the baseball organizations are not in favor of synthetic turf; therefore, the stadium crews have adopted several of the golf practices to make the existing field more viable. Joe Stevens stated these changes made a significant difference in the condition of the field. Mr. Stevens said, while it is not a high priority, he would like to discuss the drainage of the baseball field at a future Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting. Joe Stevens also stated the infield is sand based and over time may need to be renovated.

**Item 8: Next Meeting**

The next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting will be Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 7:30 a.m., at which time the Board members will attend an onsite tour of the synthetic turf construction site.

**Item 9: Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist