

# **Parks Improvement Advisory Board**

## **June 10, 2008**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Bernie Goss at 7:45 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 Committee:	Bruce Hill Paul Cain
Stadium Members Absent:	Jamie Hamilton
Parks & Recreation Staff Present:	Rich Englehart, Interim Director Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Guests:	Joe Stevens

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

Doug Thomason moved to approve the September 20, 2007 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes. Lena Elliott seconded.

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

### **Item 3: Financial Reports**

Joe Stevens distributed copies of the financial reports (See attached), stating there have not been any significant changes. Mr. Stevens reported on the current balances: General Fund \$76,772.41, Stadium Fund \$235,743.12. Joe Stevens discussed the new field cover, stating it was used for the first time this spring. Mr. Stevens expressed his appreciation to the Canyon View Vineyard Church who had 15 volunteers help for ½ day with the installation. Joe Stevens said, although the installation is very labor intensive, the cover seems to work great. Doug Thomason asked why the cover installation is so labor intensive. Joe Stevens stated each individual panel must be unrolled and then fastened together. Mr. Stevens said, when the \$166,000 cover was originally purchased, the supplier company sent a representative to provide helpful hints on installing/uninstalling, as well as storage options. Harry Butler said the cover worked great for the numerous School District graduation ceremonies. Doug Thomason also said the cover worked well for Mesa State's graduation.

**Item 4: Review of First Year of Synthetic Turf**

Joe Stevens reported the new synthetic turf has had a really good first year. Mr. Stevens expressed concern regarding reports on some synthetic fields containing lead, resulting in health related issues. Joe Stevens stated, while he is fairly confident the stadium's new turf does not contain lead, he said the Department is having the field tested. Lena Elliott reported Mesa State has already had their new turf tested and there were no safety issues. Joe Stevens said an original concern of going to synthetic turf was the possibility of the users ingesting the rubber and/or fibers. Mr. Stevens said, to date, this has not been a problem. Bruce Hill asked if there had been any heat issues with the new turf. Joe Stevens responded that Jamie Hamilton had made a request to purchase misters last September, which the Parks Improvement Advisory Board did approve. Mr. Stevens said the misters should help reduce the temperatures. Joe Stevens said the turf does get hot, especially during the August football games, and that he sees this as an opportunity to start promoting more "night" games. Mr. Stevens said night games can easily be accommodated since the field is lighted. Bernie Goss reported the injury rates were down overall since the installation of the artificial turf. Mr. Goss said he contributes the decrease to the uniformity of the surface, as there are no longer any sprinkler heads, etc. that often lead to injuries.

**Item 5: Special Projects Update**Canyon View Park:

Rich Englehart briefly reported on the status of Phase III of Canyon View Park, which includes an additional six tennis courts and a restroom shelter. Mr. Englehart stated Phase III has been identified as a high priority and that he has met with the Parks staff to discuss what other projects may need to be postponed at this time. Rich Englehart reported the budget for the tennis project is \$718,000 and that, fortunately, construction rates have dropped a little. Mr. Englehart expressed the need for post tension concrete, stating, although it is more expensive, it is an investment the City we really needs to make. Rich Engelhart stated the project has gone out to bid and is proceeding on schedule. Joe Stevens reported on the possibility of obtaining a \$250,000 GOCO grant for the project. Discussion ensued regarding the possible elimination of four tennis courts in Lincoln Park, once the Canyon View tennis complex is completed. Bernie Goss said he has witnessed the growing use of the Canyon View tennis courts, commenting on how popular the location has become. Lena Elliott said the tennis players love Canyon View Park and are really looking forward to the upcoming restroom and additional courts.

Lincoln Park Stadium:

Bruce Hill reported JUCO has recently funded an "update" of the Sink Combs Dethlef's Lincoln Park stadium master plan, in an attempt to obtain a conceptual design at current prices. Bruce Hill said JUCO, as a 501c3, has a significant amount of money they want to spend on the stadium. Mr. Hill said the next step is to begin contacting the various organizations, such as School District, Mesa State, City, etc. in search of contributions. Bruce Hill said JUCO's goal is to begin implementation of the stadium design sometime within the next year, and said that the Parks Improvement Advisory Board will be reviewing the plan in detail. Mr. Hill stated the main project they are pursuing is the replacement of the original football/baseball seating and press box. Bruce Hill stated one of the difficulties with the project is the strict regulations regarding restrooms, handicap accessibility, etc., as the regulations are based on the entire park being used at the same time. (Example: JUCO and the football field being used simultaneously) Harry Butler asked if there were still any discussions regarding relocating the stadium. Lena Elliott responded the

community needs to make the stadium a “jewel” at its current location. Joe Stevens stated this is a fantastic opportunity, as JUCO is willing to commit a substantial amount of money towards stadium improvements. Mr. Stevens expressed it is in the best interest of the School District and Mesa State to support the project, as the stadium is a major resource for the entire county. Joe Stevens discussed the option of utilizing the Grand Junction Financing Corporation, which could possibly allow the project to be financed over a ten year period. Bruce Hill briefly discussed the undeveloped park properties, stating they are a vision for the “future”; however, the priority needs to be maximizing the City’s current facilities.

Rich Englehart provided an update on Burkey Park, stating the surrounding neighborhood is actively pursuing the development of the park. Mr. Englehart said a sub-committee, consisting of Terri Troutner, Shawn Cooper, Lenna Watson, Jack Scott, and Joe Stevens, has recently been formed to review options for some minor park improvements. Bruce Hill said the park property has a very interesting dynamic, as the park land is owned by the City, yet the surrounding houses are in the County. Mr. Hill said another unusual circumstance is that so many of the neighbors want the development, stating, typically, many of the neighborhoods do “not” want a park, due to the additional traffic they tend to generate. Rich Englehart stated Terri Troutner is leading the initiative, and has put together a letter she intends to mail to the neighborhood. Mr. Englehart said he recently met with Ms. Troutner to review the letter and to clarify what improvements the subcommittee had agreed to (minor grading, keeping the weeds down, and a woodchip trail). Rich Englehart said Ms. Troutner is also planning to host a neighborhood meeting, in hopes of forming a “neighborhood” sub-committee to review the master plan and discuss minor improvements that can be made in the near future.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a County/City partnership when developing Burkey Park. The Board members agreed a partnership would be the best solution when the time comes to build the park. Sue Gormley agreed, stating it makes sense for the County to compliment the City in the development of Burkey Park. Rich Englehart expressed the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is excited the neighborhood group is so motivated, and said the Board is working with them on channeling their efforts, in order for it to remain a productive project. Mr. Englehart said land surveys will have to be completed, prior to development, due to concerns that several of the home owners have built on the park land.

Doug Thomason said City Council is sympathetic with the Burkey Park neighborhood; unfortunately, they have many other priorities to deal with at this time. Mr. Thomason expressed appreciation for Rich Englehart’s and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board’s work with the neighborhood group. Bruce Hill said, although Burkey Park is not listed as a current priority, minor improvements can still be done. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of minor improvements that can be implemented without creating the perception the entire park is going to be developed.

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

Rich Englehart reported he will be serving as the Parks and Recreation’s Interim Director. Mr. Englehart said the City will be conducting a national search and plans to have a new Director hired by September or October. Rich Englehart stated an “internal” Interim Director will be selected sometime in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Englehart said Don Hobbs has been transferred to the Finance Department, stating it is a great opportunity for him to utilize his skills in another area.

Rich Englehart stated the Parks and Recreation staff is currently meeting on a weekly basis and are doing a great job keeping on top of everything during the transitions. Mr. Englehart said there will be some restructuring, as they are currently reviewing the organization as a whole; however, many of the changes will be on a temporary basis until the new Director is hired. Rich Englehart reported Two Rivers Convention Center and the Avalon Theatre have recently been combined with the Visitor's Convention Center, under the direction of Debbie Kovalik.

Doug Thomason thanked Joe Stevens for everything he has done for the Parks and Recreation Department. Joe Steven expressed his appreciation for his tenure with the City and talked about what a great community Grand Junction is. Rich Englehart said Joe Stevens is a highly respected individual in the parks and recreation community, and throughout the state, who will truly be missed. Harry Butler thanked Joe Stevens for his hard work and dedication, expressing how smooth everything has gone with Joe Stevens as the Director. Joe Stevens said he looks back on his tenure with a great deal of pride, stating it has been honor and privilege to serve the City of Grand Junction and the entire community.

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

Stadium Project

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

Doug Thomason moved to adjourn. Harry Butler seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist