

Parks Improvement Advisory Board September 6, 2006

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Tillie Bishop at 7:35 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Tillie Bishop, Vice Chair
 Andy Rodriguez
 Doug Thomason

Board Members Absent: Ron Rowley
 Sue Gormley (Ex-Officio)

Stadium Committee: Tillie Bishop
 Steve Phillips
 Jamie Hamilton
 Joe Stevens

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
 Don Hobbs Hobbs, Assistant Director
 Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jamie Hamilton moved to approve the February 23, 2006 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes. Doug Thomason seconded.

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

Note: Steve Phillips voted in place of Ron Rowley representing School District #51.

Item 3: Parks Improvement Advisory Board Vacancy

Tillie Bishop reported, due to the loss of Dan Cummings, the Parks Improvement Advisory Board would now need to select a new Chair. Mr. Bishop stated he will be going off of the Mesa County Commission in early January 2007 and said he would like to be considered for the vacant position. Doug Thomason reported he had recently sent an email to City Council requesting their recommendations for filling the vacancy and said he has not yet received any feedback. Mr. Thomason requested the agenda item be tabled until the next meeting, in order to allow more time for input. Discussion ensued. The Parks Improvement Advisory Board vacancy will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Item 4: Financial Report

Don Hobbs distributed financial handouts (see attached) from the past three years, along with the projections for 2007. Discussion ensued regarding the annual contributions received from the City, Mesa State College, and Mesa County. Tillie Bishop discussed the drinking fountain project, which was the largest expenditure since the \$5,000 resurfacing project for the Lincoln Park tennis courts. Andy Rodriguez asked if there was a "target" balance as to what specific amount should be kept in the funds. Don Hobbs responded, a specific minimum balance has never been discussed, as there is never any way of indicating how much funding will be needed for upcoming projects. Jamie Hamilton said it might be a really good opportunity to find a project to spend a substantial amount of money on. Joe Stevens stated it was the Parks Improvement Advisory Board's decision whether to spend the funds, or continue to accrue the funds for a larger project.

Don Hobbs provided a brief update on the stadium fund, in which each entity contributes \$10,000/year. In addition, $\frac{1}{2}$ of the proceeds of the wood signs on Suplizio Field also go towards the stadium fund; the other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the proceeds go to JUCO in return for helping sell the signs. Mr. Hobbs stated JUCO receives the funds directly for the sale of the signs on the scoreboard. Jamie Hamilton reported the scoreboard cost approximately \$195,000, and will pay for itself over time. Mr. Hamilton said the new sign has approximately an eight year turn. Jamie Hamilton asked if there are any capital funds available in the near future for stadium improvements, stating JUCO is at risk of losing their nonprofit status if they do not spend some money soon. Joe Stevens reported the City has indicated interest in contributing to stadium improvements; however, there has to be some type of financial participation and/or commitment from School District 51 and Mesa State College in order to proceed. Mr. Stevens discussed the option of utilizing the Grand Junction Finance Corporation, allowing the entities to make payments on major improvement projects. Steve Phillips stated the School District has recently been discussing financial options, as there are several bond issue projects that have been completed "under" budget. Tillie Bishop discussed the County's increasing involvement in Parks & Recreation, including the upcoming opening of Long Family Memorial Park. Mr. Bishop emphasized the importance of the community providing stadium access for the youth of the Grand Valley, stating that while the County is not necessarily a "user", their constituents are. Jamie Hamilton asked what the estimated cost would be to replace the wood fence at Suplizio field. Don Hobbs responded the approximate cost is \$150,000, which includes replacing all of the signage. Jamie Hamilton asked what the next step for the Golden Baseball League (GBL) is, stating they will also need signs and perhaps, should contract to obtain their own signs/installation. Doug Thomason stated the GBL knows they will have to work to maintain the relationship with JUCO with regards to the signage. Tillie Bishop said the Parks Improvement Advisory Board has several issues to consider, and needs to establish a prioritization list for stadium improvements. Joe Stevens stated, unfortunately, the longer the delay, the more the improvement projects will cost, due to the increasing construction costs. Tillie Bishop asked for the Board members to identify and develop individual lists of capital improvements for discussion at the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting. Joe Stevens stated the Sink, Combs, Dethlefs master plan already has a listing of improvements, which the Board could revisit and reprioritize if necessary. Joe Stevens stated the City has been fairly good at keeping up with minor improvements, such as the sound system; however, the larger projects will have to be completed eventually. Doug Thomason questioned the life expectancy of the current stadium. Don Hobbs reported there have been numerous "band aids" made to the facility over the years. Mr. Hobbs stated the majority of the fencing in right field blew down last spring, and the center field fencing blew down two years ago. Don Hobbs stated, the replacement of the center stands

would solve several issues, and that replacing the restrooms and the concession buildings separately would be "throwing the money away", as the center stands will have to be replaced someday regardless. Steve Phillips said he agrees the center stands, concession areas, restrooms, and press box should all be completed in one project. Tillie Bishop asked if City Council has had any further discussions on the stadium master plan. Doug Thomason responded there have not been any recent discussions specific to the stadium master plan and Council has not made any final recommendations at this time. Andy Rodriguez asked if the Board wanted to focus on the small or the large projects. Tillie Bishop stated, at some point in time, the group will have to "bite the bullet" and complete the large stadium projects. Andy Rodriguez said the Board has already been talking about the improvements for several meetings, and that, until there is a commitment from each organization involved, nothing is going to happen. Tillie Bishop agreed, and said that while the Board just "talks" about it, the costs are continuing to increase. Tillie Bishop also said it may be a good time to pursue a joint project with Fruita and Palisade, as the severance tax is very healthy right now. Mr. Bishop suggested a proposal for a county wide vote, as stadium facilities might be something the voters want to see the severance tax funds go towards. Doug Thomason stated it might not necessarily need to go to voters, as City Council and Mesa County may be able to make the decision on their own. Tillie Bishop also discussed the impact the requests for improvements will have on Tabor, stating either the tabor surplus will need to be refunded, or permission from the voters will need to be obtained in order to spend the funds on an improvement project. Steve Phillips emphasized the need to complete a large project, as he said he does not see anyone else building their own stadium facility. Tillie Bishop stated the Board is not making progress talking about it, and needs to involve the other governing boards as soon as possible. Jamie Hamilton stated he plans to discuss the issue with Tim Foster in order to obtain guidance on behalf of Mesa State College.

Jamie Hamilton moved to accept the financial reports presented by Don Hobbs. Andy Rodriguez seconded.

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

Note: Steve Phillips voted in place of Ron Rowley representing School District #51.

Item 5: Golden Baseball League

Jamie Hamilton discussed the potential relationship between Golden Baseball League and JUCO, stating, although they have worked out some resolutions, to date, JUCO has remained noncommittal in endorsing the proposal. Mr. Stevens stated the City Council is willing to consider a proposal. Joe Stevens stated staff has been directed by City Council to pursue a draft agreement for 2007. Joe Stevens reported the GBL currently consists of seven teams, including the recently signed St. George, Utah team, who the GBL hopes to partner with Grand Junction on the traveling schedule. Mr. Stevens stated there are still several issues remaining, including the need for an agreement, approved by JUCO, which states that revenue for signs and advertising, or an amount equal to what JUCO would potentially forfeit with GBL, will continue to go to JUCO. Joe Stevens stated the main sources of revenue for the GBL will be generated from national, regional, and local advertising, admissions, souvenirs, and concessions, including the possibility of 3.2 beer sales. Jamie Hamilton expressed concern regarding the potential damage another 25 - 30 games/season may have on the baseball field. Mr. Hamilton referred to comments regarding the condition of the fields last year, due to there not being enough of a break in between the spring

baseball season and JUCO. Joe Stevens stated GBL is willing to provide additional maintenance crews or funds to help keep the fields in good shape. Mr. Stevens said the City's legal staff is currently reviewing a draft of the agreement, which should be presented to City Council within the next 30-45 days. Jamie Hamilton stated, personally, although he is concerned about the impact on the fields, he sees more benefits to the GBL agreement, than negatives. Andy Rodriguez suggested Canyon View Park's baseball field be further developed, since the demand for baseball fields continues to increase. Joe Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is also having similar discussions regarding the need for more developed baseball facilities at Canyon View Park that would include a scoreboard, press box, more seating, and the ability to generate revenue. Discussion ensued regarding the excellent quality/condition of the baseball field at Canyon View Park, and how many of the players have stated they prefer to play at Canyon View Park; however, the coaches often prefer Suplizio Field. Joe Stevens stated he foresees more teams being scheduled at Canyon View Park, in order to open up windows for maintenance at Suplizio Field. Steve Phillips stated the School District strives to schedule even play at both baseball fields. Mesa State prefers all games be played at Suplizio Field because of it's proximity to campus.

Item 6: Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda

Parks Improvement Advisory Board Vacancy
Stadium Improvements

The Board agreed the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting will be on November 15, 2006 at 7:30 a.m.

Item 8: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Unanimously Approved: Yes 4 No 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist