

Parks Improvement Advisory Board November 15, 2006

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Tillie Bishop at 7:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Tillie Bishop, Vice Chair
 Andy Rodriguez
 Doug Thomason
 Ron Rowley
 Sue Gormley (Ex-Officio)

Stadium Committee: Tillie Bishop
 Steve Phillips
 Jamie Hamilton
 Bruce Hill
 Joe Stevens

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

Guests: Mary Biagini, Principal Mesa View Elementary
 Gwen Eller, PTO Representative

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jamie Hamilton moved to approve the September 6, 2006 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes. Doug Thomason seconded.

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

Jamie Hamilton stated he will strictly be representing Mesa State, as Bruce Hill will now be representing JUCO on the Parks Improvement Advisory Board.

Steve Phillips expressed the School District's appreciation for Ron Felt and the stadium crew members, stating the fields were kept in excellent condition the entire season. Mr. Phillips said the School District has received multiple comments regarding the exceptional field maintenance.

Item 3: Mesa View Elementary PTO – Playground Funding Request

Gwen Eller, Mesa View Elementary PTO Representative, stated the school's playground has been removed due to safety issues, and there has not been any financial means to replace it. Ms. Eller

stated the PTO has now been faced with the challenge of building a new playground, and is hoping to install a completely handicap accessible playground. Gwen Eller stated the PTO has applied for a \$25,000 grant from DOLA in hopes of including a wheelchair accessible surface, which is made from recycled tires. Ms. Eller said the grant has been denied twice and is scheduled to be reviewed again in December. Gwen Eller said the school has raised the funds for the equipment, but still needs to raise \$37,700 for the surface. Ron Rowley stated the playground funding request was not brought to the School District Board's attention. Doug Thomason asked if the school has approached the local service clubs. Gwen Eller responded the PTO has approached the Lion's Club and has not yet heard a final decision. Doug Thomason said the Lion's Club will make their decisions in December and plan to make their announcements in January. Ms. Eller said the school also applied for a Lowe's grant, which has also been denied. Ms. Eller said the second phase of the playground would include an elevated sandbox (approximately \$3,000) which the PTO plans to raise at a later date. Gwen Eller stated the school is requesting a total of \$12,700 from the Parks Improvement Advisory Board. Tillie Bishop stated he would prefer the school continue to press DOLA for the grant funds. Bruce Hill said he would like to see the school press the School District Board for funding. Ron Rowley said he would have liked to have seen this project included in the last bond project. Mr. Rowley said the School District Board was unaware the project still needed funding and was led to believe that GOCO was funding the playground. Joe Stevens discussed the history of the Parks Improvement Advisory Board, in which they have funded numerous projects similar to this one, including a water fountain and tennis courts. Mr. Stevens stated the project is very viable, due to its broad-based participation and fund raising efforts. Tillie Bishop recommended the Parks Improvement Advisory Board put their decision on hold until there is a final outcome from the other entities (DOLA, School District, and Lion's Club). Joe Stevens stated there is a way to assist the school if the Board agrees to do so, as there is currently enough money in the Parks Improvement Advisory Board fund for School District projects. Mr. Stevens said the Board could redirect the requested amount without touching the available balance. Tillie Bishop said he would like for the school to come back to the Board in January should they still need additional funding. Doug Thomason said he was impressed with the amount of community support the school had generated, as well as the excellent job they have done on raising funds.

Item 4: Golden Baseball League Update

Joe Stevens briefly reported on the Golden Baseball League, stating they currently are in discussions with the City Attorney and the Interim City Manager. Mr. Stevens said a "draft" agreement is in process for City Council's initial consideration, which includes the GBL paying for the use of the City's fields. Joe Stevens said the GBL will have to work around the black out dates for all Mesa State and School District #51 events. Doug Thomason asked at what point it will no longer be feasible for the GBL to continue with contract negotiations, in order to have sufficient time to prepare for next year's season. Joe Stevens stated their original drop off date was November 1, 2006; however they are still working towards an agreement. Jamie Hamilton reported the GBL had contacted JUCO approximately two months ago regarding the advertising and marketing; however, has not been in touch with JUCO since that time. Mr. Hamilton expressed his concern as to how it will look for JUCO if an agreement is not arranged ahead of time. Joe Stevens stated it is a requirement that the GBL reach an agreement with JUCO, in order for them to proceed, and that JUCO will not be perceived as the bad guys if an advertising agreement is not reached.

Item 5: Canyon View Tennis Project

Deferred to future agenda

Item 6: Other Business

Don Hobbs reviewed the financial reports included in the packet. Mr. Hobbs discussed the numerous general fund projects that have not come to fruition, due to multiple reasons, including a dishonest parent who stole the school's funding and the political climate. Don Hobbs reported a total of \$10,979 worth of projects have been encumbered and could be removed in order to allow funding for the Mesa View playground project. Discussion ensued.

Doug Thomas moved to transfer the funds back into the Parks Improvement Advisory Board fund. Andy Rodriguez seconded.

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

Tillie Bishop stated there should be a time limit on how long the funds are held. Doug Thomason stated DOLA's timeframe of three years would be a good timeframe to copy. Andy Rodriguez suggested the smaller projects have a shorter timeframe (one year) and the larger projects be allowed up to three years. Bruce Hill said he agreed with Andy Rodriguez and said the "default" timeframe should be three years. Joe Stevens said a timeline could be included in the individual agreements based on the specific project.

Doug Thomason moved to implement a three year timeframe (as the "default") for all grant requests submitted to Parks Improvement Advisory Board unless a specific timeframe is documented within the agreement. Andy Rodriguez second.

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

Jamie Hamilton reported Tim Foster had asked him to convey Mesa State College is very interested in pursuing, and being a major player in, the installation of artificial turf at Stocker Stadium and/or Suplizio Field. Mr. Hamilton stated Mesa State has recently been in contact with a company who said they would install artificial turf on the football field for \$495,000 if purchased by the end of the year. Jamie Hamilton said if the Golden Baseball League contract is permitted, the baseball field will also need artificial turf. Mr. Hamilton said the cost for the baseball field would be \$395,000 if also purchased before the end of the year. Jamie Hamilton stated this price would be much cheaper than further developing the Canyon View Park baseball field. Mr. Hamilton said there are 25 colleges across the states who are putting in this same turf, and that Mesa State is interested in contributing, as they may have an opportunity to obtain a \$3,000,000 bond. Ron Rowley stated, even with new turf, Stocker Stadium is still a very poor facility with regards to the current bleachers and the insufficient parking. Mr. Rowley expressed the Board should consider the possibility of relocating the football field to the Matchett Park property. Bruce Hill stated the relocation of the complex would dramatically increase the overall costs. Mr. Hill reported City Council recently voted to give the Parks Improvement Advisory Board the authority to begin exploring funding options for Stocker Stadium. Mr. Hill stated an example of additional funding would be to begin charging a \$1 user fee at the gate to be used towards facility improvements. Bruce Hill asked the Board if they are willing to start discussions

on how to raise funding for future stadium improvements. Ron Rowley reported the School District is currently considering doing a feasibility study on building their own football stadium. Steve Phillips stated the artificial turf option is a chance to make a significant improvement to Stocker Stadium at a reduced price. Mr. Phillips said football is the main revenue generating activity and he would like to see this bargain price taken advantage of. Andy Rodriguez agreed, saying the artificial turf makes economical sense and would be a "quick fix", buying some time for additional improvements. Steve Phillips discussed the current "overwhelming use" of the fields, including the back to back scheduling of the games already taking place. Mr. Phillips stated the games are being scheduled Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays versus just on the weekends. Andy Rodriguez said there is an immediate need to improve the field, and the artificial turf would be a good solution at a good price. Doug Thomason agreed, saying the need is immediate, but at some point alternative sites will have to be explored. Joe Stevens said there are other issues than just the cost, questioning whether or not Mesa State has cross referenced with other competitors, and the fact that there could be hidden costs, such as soil issues. Mr. Stevens expressed concern with meeting the end of the year deadline, as it takes time to do the proper research, develop specifications, award bid, etc. Tillie Bishop agreed and said the City would be severely criticized if they did not go through some sort of bidding process. Andy Rodriguez expressed concern over the timing issue, stating the construction on the Mesa State soccer field begins December 18, 2006, which is another reason the contractor was willing to offer such a good price. Don Hobbs asked if the price includes the football field only or the entire interior. Mr. Hobbs asked if the price includes the track events inside the oval, as they will also need replaced. Don Hobbs stated he has attended numerous meetings regarding artificial turf, and has learned there are many pitfalls that need to be reviewed before purchasing. Bruce Hill stated due diligence will have to take place. Joe Stevens said the concept was great, but expressed concern that the City could get hung out to dry if there are extra costs not being disclosed. Mr. Stevens said if the City were to enter into an agreement, it would have to include a "guaranteed maximum price", in order to ensure additional costs will not occur. Tillie Bishop stated the timeframe on the "bargain price" puts a rush on the research and decision making process. Bruce Hill agreed it was time to move forward, as there is an immediate need; however, said they should not shortcut the process just to take advantage of discount. Joe Stevens said staff would need specifications in order to bid the project. Mr. Stevens also suggested doing an addendum for Stocker and/or Suplezio fields to the Mesa State's soccer contract, in order to obtain specifications and costs in a timely manner. Andy Rodriguez said he will talk to Tim Foster and request for Mesa State to take the lead on the project. Joe Stevens stated the cost to have a specifications package put together for review will be approximately \$25,000.

Bruce Hill asked if the Board is interested in pursuing funding options for improvements at Lincoln Park. Joe Stevens stated the Grand Junction Finance Corporation can be utilized to finance the improvements. Mr. Stevens stated if there are commitments from all of the Parks Improvement Advisory Board organizations, there will also be grant opportunities. Discussion ensued. The Parks Improvement Advisory Board members agreed they are interested in researching additional funding opportunities for Lincoln Park improvements. Ron Rowley requested a summary of the stadium improvement plans at "today's" prices.

Andy Rodriguez moved to approve the financial report. Steven Phillips seconded.

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

Joe Stevens reported the Grand Junction Tennis Club recently submitted a grant application to the Lion's Club for a tennis shack and storage area at Canyon View Park. Mr. Stevens stated, if the grant is approved, the Grand Junction Tennis Club will most likely request additional funds from the Parks Improvement Advisory Board.

Ron Rowley distributed handouts on the "crenosphere", which is a thin shelled concrete dome used for covering stadiums. Mr. Rowley said the School District Board is including the possibility of a crenosphere in their feasibility study.

Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda

Golden Baseball League Update

Stadium Improvements Update

Parks Improvement Advisory Board Vacancy

The Board agreed the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting will be on December 13, 2006 at 7:30 a.m. at TRCC.

Item 8: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Unanimously Approved: Yes 4 No 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist