

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2000**

Item 1 Called to Order by Vice-Chairman Tillie Bishop at 11:50 a.m.

Roll Call

City Council Members Present: Jack Scott

Board Members Present: Jamie Hamilton – arrived at 11:55am
Tillie Bishop
Bob Cron
RT Mantlo
Nora Hughes
Lena Elliott

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Shawn Cooper, Park Planner
Erika Doyle, Administrative Specialist

Item 2 Approve Minutes

Bob Cron moved to approve the May 18, 2000 minutes with revisions. (The revised minutes are attached.) Tillie Bishop seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

Item 3 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

RT Mantlo suggested that when the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) speaks about the “Rec Center” it be addressed officially as the “Recreation/Senior Center”. Lena Elliott stated that she didn’t think the PRAB had participated in enough discussions to formalize what it should be referred to as. Tillie Bishop announced that Hilltop is having another planning session for their Senior Center and plan to move ahead. Joe Stevens stated that he had tentatively scheduled Sally Schaeffer, from Hilltop, to participate in the September PRAB meeting specifically to discuss their plans and how they are progressing.

Jamie Hamilton arrives (11:50 am). Tillie Bishop brings Mr. Hamilton current in the discussion. Mr. Bishop suggests that at this time the PRAB should refer to the project as a multi-use center rather than specifying. Joe Stevens stated that one wing had been recommended as a “Senior Section”, however, the plan has never progressed beyond conceptualization with both a senior wing in the 1994 plan as well as encouraged in the preliminary 2000 Master Plan.

Lena Elliott asked if the PRAB had lined out a #1 priority once money was available. RT Mantlo said that he thought it was to complete Canyon View Park. Joe Stevens stated that the Master Plan survey had originally suggested that an amphitheater is the number one priority, however, after additional surveying and sampling, particularly youth, a recreation/senior center has a high priority with the survey, focus group, and Master Plan recommendations from Winston Associates. Mr. Stevens, to clarify, stated that the PRAB had not taken a formal position on prioritizing project funding. The current PRAB view has been to complete Canyon View Park and begin the first phase at Matchett Park.

Bob Cron stated that for simplicity, the PRAB should refer to the project as the "Rec Center" but we need to make sure we get the seniors to participate in the vote. RT Mantlo stated that if we have to go to the vote of the people, and don't include the seniors, a recreation center would never fly.

Bob Cron asked where Paul was on the Master Plan. Joe Stevens stated that he was basically done. If funding is not identified, the PRAB may have an excellent Master Plan but little opportunity for implementation. PRAB prioritization, with limited funding, will be necessary. Tillie Bishop stated that he believes the PRAB needs to have additional meetings as a full board to discuss prioritization of the Master Plan. Bob Cron and Lena Elliott concurred with Mr. Bishop.

Item 4 Canyon View Park Baseball Field Restrooms

Joe Stevens gave an overview of the improvements needed at Canyon View Park in the future, which include a PA system, scoreboard, restrooms, seating, etc. JUCO, PIAB, PRAB, and Parks and Recreation staff have been working on the planning of these future improvements. Mr. Stevens introduced Shawn Cooper, City of Grand Junction Parks Planner, to give an overview of the Master Plan (baseball field portion).

Shawn Cooper presented the original Master Plan for the baseball field area, which had included one shelter, 2 restroom facilities, and a concession stand and would have bleachers and parking that would accommodate approximately 350 patrons. After reevaluating the space, the Canyon View Master Plan has been revised to merge the concession stand and the restrooms into one facility and place the building approximately 100-125 feet south of the baseball field (see attached sketches). Tillie Bishop asked if the 100-125 feet of space between the field and the facility would accommodate expanding the seating area for bleachers in the future. Mr. Cooper stated that he assumed it would but without knowing exactly what would be installed he couldn't say.

Jamie Hamilton then introduced Sam Suplizio to the PRAB. Mr. Suplizio gave a presentation as to his thoughts on how the baseball field ought to be organized. Mr. Suplizio recommended that if the PRAB wanted to install bleachers, they should be installed directly behind home plate with the concession stand and restrooms built under the bleachers. Mr. Suplizio stated that this would remove glare for players so that their depth perception while playing would be improved, it would free up more open space, and it would be open to incorporating locker rooms if wanted. Mr. Suplizio stated that the current Master Plan is impractical for baseball. Mr. Suplizio showed a draft plan for a section of seating to the PRAB that he thought would work well. The bleachers

would begin at about 3 feet above home plate and rise approximately 60 feet and could accommodate 750 patrons. The bleachers would be installed at a cost of \$90,000 for which Mr. Suplizio would raise the funds. Attendance for Mesa State and School District 51 games at Suplizio Field rarely exceeds 200 spectators. It is not anticipated that there is an immediate demand for 750 seats at Canyon View and on the rare occasion where that occurs, the game(s) are and could continue to be played at Suplizio Field.

Jamie Hamilton asked if there were concerns with functionality and appearance of installing these types of bleachers at Canyon View Park. Mr. Stevens stated that it would impact the view and it would certainly impact the design of the park, however, there are things that could be done to mitigate those concerns. Mr. Stevens pointed out the fact that there were more pressing issues that needed to be addressed – i.e. restrooms and parking. Currently, the planned restrooms and existing parking lot accommodate 350 patrons. These areas would need to be revisited to accommodate 750. Currently, funding does not exist for those changes/additions. These changes may be required by City Code. Jamie Hamilton stated that the PRAB has a history of considering projects when the project sponsor(s) bring money to the table.

Tillie Bishop moved to have the Parks and Recreation staff work with Sam Suplizio and Community Development to identify all additional costs and necessary code improvements that would be required to accept Mr. Suplizio's offer of installing the discussed stands at Canyon View Park. Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Sam Suplizio asked the PRAB if he could present one more project. Mr. Suplizio presented a plan in which JUCO would fund \$100-\$125,000 to beautify the entry way into Stoker Stadium/Suplizio Field. The plan includes 8-foot red brick walls, a new ticket booth, and archway.

Tillie Bishop moved to have the Parks and Recreation staff review the plans, make sure there would be no hidden costs to the City of Grand Junction and report back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Joe Stevens asked to meet with Sam Suplizio and Frank Wagner to look at the plan in detail.

Sam Suplizio stated that he would be removing the JUCO sign that is currently up at Suplizio Field.

Item 5 Two Rivers Convention Center Update

Lena Elliott stated that the committee had met with the architect regarding the design of the front of the building. The architect brought three very nice options to the table and they had been discussed. There is a meeting scheduled for August 4th for final planning of the design. Ms. Elliott wanted to add her thanks to the City Council for their assistance in working with the PRAB on the Two Rivers Convention Center Project.

Item 6 Other Business

Eagle Rim Park

Joe Stevens thanked the PRAB for participating in the opening and dedication of Eagle Rim Park – it was determined to have been a great success. Tillie Bishop expressed his gratitude to the Parks and Recreation Staff for having done such a great job on the park – all comments he has received have been great! Mr. Bishop added that he felt Eagle Rim was a beautiful addition to our community.

Bob Cron invited everyone to attend a FREE Bluegrass Festival being held at Eagle Rim Park on July 30th.

New Board Members

Joe Stevens announced that Bernie Goss would be filling the PRAB vacancy created by the departure of Board Member, Karen Madsen. Election of officers for the next year will be held at the August meeting.

Hockey League

Jamie Hamilton stated that the Western Professional Hockey League (WPHL) has met with the Chamber of Commerce. The WPHL has a league that is in existence and will be bringing an official proposal to the PRAB soon.

Recreation Supervisor

Jamie Hamilton stated that he understood that the assessment center for the recreation supervisor position would be held on Friday, July 21st and he would like Joe Stevens to know that Eddie Mort has done a fantastic job with Little League and he has also heard wonderful things about him. Lena Elliott stated she had heard the same thing about Mr. Mort.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 17th, 2000 at 11:30am.

Item 7 Adjourn

Jamie Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting, Bob Cron seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 6 yes 0 no

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Doyle
Administrative Specialist