

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Special Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2000

Item 1 Called to Order by Chairman Tillie Bishop at 12:20 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tillie Bishop
Bernie Goss
Nora Hughes
Jamie Hamilton

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Erika Doyle, Administrative Specialist

Item 2 Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Master Plan Review

Joe Stevens gave a summary what lies ahead for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) pending review of the revised and updated Master Plan. Basically, the point of the meeting is to approve the Master Plan as well as hear from the PRAB on what is reasonable and acceptable or not as well as incorporating needs found by the public surveys. Mr. Stevens stated that the last Master Plan was approved in 1993 and adopted in 1994.

Joe Stevens introduced Paul Kuhn of Winston Associates who is in the process of updating The City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Kuhn stated that the biggest priority from all groups that had given input was for a public indoor recreation center. Mr. Kuhn went on to say that Canyon View Park does a great job of meeting recreation needs in the area. Parks around the City look very good, however the master plan analysis shows that there is a need for more parks on the north and west sides of town where planning for neighborhood parks hasn't kept pace with growth and development.

Joe Stevens mentioned, regarding growth in the Redlands, that there is a 1,100+/- parcel of land that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), through the Bangs Canyon Management Plan, is planning to transfer to the City of Grand Junction. There are a few steps that need to take place (i.e. 200+/- acres need to be turned back over to the BLM from Mesa County and the adoption of a maintenance plan, but this is in currently in process. Mr. Stevens then asked the Board to approve the revised Master Plan so that it could be presented to City Council.

Tillie Bishop stated that he thinks the people of Grand Junction need to have the right to vote on funding for projects as outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Jamie Hamilton stated that he would like to have the Master Plan reflect that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board supports the Master Plan – Tillie Bishop concurred.

Joe Stevens then brought up some points Board Member Bob Cron (absent) had asked him to discuss: 1) Mr. Cron would like to see Burkey Park moved down on the priority list and 2) Mr. Cron would like community information to be updated. The Board responded by stating that at this time they do not wish to move Burkey Park within the priority list. Joe Stevens asked Mr. Kuhn to address the trends of Recreation Centers in Colorado as well as trends with regards to YMCA's.

Motion No. 1

Jamie Hamilton moved to recommend City Council allow a vote of the public for a Recreation Center. Bernie Goss seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

Motion No. 2

Jamie Hamilton moved and Nora Hughes seconded a motion to recommend City Council consider the following or combinations of options to pay for master plan implementation:

DeBruce

Ask the voters to DeBruce within the spirit of the Tabor Amendment and utilize a portion of these funds for park purposes. Clearly the intent of Tabor was to let the people vote. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is trying to stay within that spirit.

Incur Debt

The citizens voting on Tabor would be permitted to enjoy the benefits of a new facility now. Otherwise many senior citizens, who are one of the larger voting groups, may never have the opportunity to experience a Recreation Center. Without addressing Tabor and without incurring debt, the City is looking at up to 20 years before sufficient resources are available. Assuming an inflation rate of 4% and a borrowing rate of 5%, this may be a prudent investment. Additionally, well-managed public debt will finance assets with long-term life and equitably spread the cost to both current and future users.

Sales Tax Increase (1/8 % – 1/4 %) with a Sunset

In November 1999, 59% of the voting public indicated they would definitely or probably vote for a ¼% sales tax increase for Parks and Recreation. The margin of error was plus or minus 4.3%. Citizens appreciate what the City is doing and encourage continued improvements to our park system.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

The Board noted that the top two priorities of the master plan will be implementation of Phase I of Matchett Park (including infrastructure, recreation center, outdoor pool and small water park, maintenance facilities, perimeter trail, seven acres of developed park land and associated parking) and the completion of Canyon View Park.

Item 3 Other BusinessTwo Rivers Convention Center

Joe Stevens stated that Sink Combs Dethlefs along with Shaw Construction are working on bringing back a proposal for a cost not to exceed \$4.1 million.

Jamie Hamilton stated that he had heard getting an energy grant may be difficult. Tillie Bishop stated that he hoped the City of Grand Junction wouldn't be penalized for having a history of good financial management.

Item 4 Adjourn

Jamie Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting. Nora Hughes seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 4 yes 0 no

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Doyle
Administrative Specialist