

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

**Item 1 Called to Order by Chairman Jamie Hamilton at 11:35 a.m.**

Roll Call

Board Members Present:                    Jamie Hamilton  
   Tillie Bishop  
   Nora Hughes  
   Lena Elliott  
   RT Mantlo  
   Karen Madsen

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:    Joe Stevens, Director  
   Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
   Shawn Cooper, Park Planner  
   Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent  
   Ron Felt, Athletic Field/Facility Supervisor  
   Erika Doyle, Administrative Specialist

**Item 2 Approve Minutes**

Tillie Bishop moved to approve the December 17, 1999 minutes. Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

Unanimously Approved:    Yes 6            No 0

**Item 3 Ken Scissors Representing the Wingate Park Neighborhood**

Jamie Hamilton introduced Mr. Ken Scissors who stated he was representing proponents of developing Wingate Park somewhat informally. Mr. Scissors requested that dialogue be opened once again on the development of Wingate Park. Mr. Scissors brought with him a conceptual design for the park that Shawn Cooper had assisted him with. The design is mainly in existence mainly to bring the neighborhoods ideas to the table at this point. Mr. Scissors brought an outline of the history of Wingate Park (see attached) and reviewed each point to the board. Mr. Scissors then went over the conceptual design stating that the proposed park would include a walking trail around the park, a tot playground, two tennis courts, and a picnic area. A rough estimate for the cost of the park comprising of the above stated amenities is projected at approximately \$250,000. The Wingate Park neighborhood is open to revamping the design if it would expedite the process. (i.e. using rough natural trails vs. concrete, leaving retention pond as is, and leaving the landscaping natural for the most part.)

Joe Stevens interjected that he understands Mr. Scissors basic philosophy as one that the neighbors would like the project completed sooner rather than later. Currently Wingate Park is planned within the Parks and Recreation 10-year Capital Improvement Project budget. Mr. Stevens and Jamie Hamilton agreed that this project should be one that could be pushed forward if the concept of a ¼% sales tax increase came to fruition and the Master Plan was reevaluated (although stressed that this is only conceptual at this point and it certainly wouldn't be a requirement to get the project done). It would only allow the possibility of moving forward a little sooner.

Tillie Bishop asked Mr. Scissors if he had tried to acquire in-kind donations. Mr. Scissors stated at this time the answer was no, but this was due to the fact that he wanted to start with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board first and go from there.

Lena Elliott thanked Mr. Scissors on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for all his hard work on this project.

#### **Item 4 Minor League Baseball Terms, Conditions and Guidelines**

Jamie Hamilton stated that the City Council had requested the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to gather information on the probability and viability of bringing a professional baseball team to Grand Junction. Mr. Hamilton stated that Kevin Haughian, principal owner of the Butte Copper Kings out of Butte, Montana had received Minor League approval to move his team, which is a member of a Pioneer League and is an approved Minor League franchise, to Grand Junction. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board needs to know more about the pros and cons (i.e. costs, revenues, what is necessary to make this work?) Mr. Hamilton also stated that there had been no solicitation by the City of Grand Junction to bring in professional baseball.

Jamie Hamilton recapped several highlights of Joe Stevens January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> memorandums (attached). One minor concern that was brought to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was the possibility or likelihood of increased competition for money between JUCO, Mesa State College, School District 51, and the possible professional baseball team. School District 51 was more concerned about conflicting dates with football games in August and September.

Jamie Hamilton also stated that several members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board were actively involved with JUCO and felt that a Minor League option was not ideal as local ownership would be lost. Lena Elliott stated that if the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board were to move forward into negotiations, they would need to know what the Butte Copper Kings would be bringing to the table.

Joe Stevens stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board needed to outline under what terms it would be acceptable to City Council so that they could take a position. The City of Grand Junction would certainly not move forward if the deal weren't advantageous.

Tillie Bishop stated there would be a lot to learn about baseball negotiating. Be assured, the professional baseball people will know how to negotiate these kinds of deals.

Karen Madsen stated that it seems to date the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has only collected information from people/businesses it would adversely effect. Without seeing how they could benefit the community – we can't just say no. Lena Elliott and Tillie Bishop stated that they agreed with Karen's comment, however, they certainly don't want to jeopardize the good ties they have with Sam Suplizio, JUCO, Mesa State College, as well as School District 51.

Tillie Bishop stated that he didn't believe the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board had all the information required to make an informed decision on whether to proceed or not at this time. In addition, Mr. Bishop didn't believe that all the information could be gathered in the timeline the Butte Copper Kings are looking at relocating to Grand Junction for the 2000 season.

Tillie Bishop moved and Lena Elliot seconded a motion to report that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's findings, indicated on Joe Stevens January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> memorandums (attached), reflect information the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has collected to-date. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board does not feel at this time that they have enough information on what benefits the Grand Junction community would receive if they pursued this venture. Does the City Council want the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to gather specifics or direct staff to initiate negotiations in order to make a judgement on whether this would be beneficial for users and the community? The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board requests direction from the City Council.

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

### **Item 5 Needs Assessment Survey Findings**

Joe Stevens stated that the needs assessment survey findings indicate a significant amount of support for a sales tax referendum and could possibly be on the ballot in the November 2000 election. Prior to making a recommendation to City Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board needs to obtain citizen involvement, frame the issue, and work toward a potential ballot question designating projects, funding, and timelines for implementation.

Lena Elliot moved and R.T. Mantlo seconded a motion to recommend that City Council give the City Manager authorization to enter into a contract with Winston Associates to revise and update the existing Master Plan in order to look at the possibility of pursuing a ballot issue as early as November 7, 2000.

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

### **Item 6 Other Business**

#### Task Force for a Grand Junction Community Center

Mari Steinbach introduced Dave Norman representing the Task Force for a Grand Junction Community Center. Mr. Norman expressed his gratitude that the Parks and Recreation Advisory

Board was pursuing this tax referendum and is moving forward with plans for a Senior/Recreation Center if the tax referendum is approved. Mr. Norman asked for a copy of the needs assessment survey findings so that he could report back to his group. Erika Doyle will get him this information. Mr. Norman also expressed appreciation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for recommending that the City move forward with a Master Plan update in hopes of a November election.

### SCUBA

Joe Stevens gave a brief update on SCUBA in the Recreation Division. At this time the Parks and Recreation Department has support from all the local SCUBA businesses, except Adventure Sports, to pursue offering time in the Orchard Mesa Pool for SCUBA classes. Adventure Sports has been in contact with Karen Madsen of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Plans for a SCUBA program are still being evaluated with the possibility of implementation later this year.

### Football Field of the Year Award

Ron Felt, Athletic Field/Facility Supervisor for the City of Grand Junction, was presented with the 1999 Football Field of the Year Award for maintenance and quality of the Stocker Stadium football field. This is a very prestigious award given to one municipal football field in the country and is presented by the Sports Turf Managers Association. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board gave it congratulations to Mr. Felt and his crew.

### **Item 5 Adjourn**

Tillie Bishop moved to adjourn the meeting, Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Doyle  
Administrative Specialist