

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2000**

**Item 1 Called to Order by Vice-Chairman Tillie Bishop at 11:45 a.m.**

Roll Call

Board Members Present:                   Tillie Bishop  
  Bob Cron  
  Nora Hughes  
  Lena Elliott  
  RT Mantlo  
  Karen Madsen

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:    Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
  Shawn Cooper, Park Planner  
  Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent  
  Travis Bunkleman, Director of Golf  
  Michael Varnum, TRCC Manager  
  Erika Doyle, Administrative Specialist

**Item 2 Approve Minutes**

Tillie Bishop moved to accept changes to the submitted January 20, 2000 minutes. Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

Unanimously Approved:    Yes 6            No 0

Tillie Bishop moved to approve the January 20, 2000 minutes with revisions. (The revised minutes are attached.)

Unanimously Approved:    Yes 6            No 0

**Item 3 1999 Organization Award of the Year**

Rick Manchester, Recreation Supervisor, was pleased to announce that to the City of Grand Junction Recreation Department had been presented with the 1999 Organization Award of the Year by the United States Tennis Association (USTA), Intermountain Section, Colorado District on February 18, 2000 for excellence in tennis program management. Two of the recognition highlights were the Recreation Department's Friday Tennis Club as well as the celebration and promotion of Tennis Month (May) where tennis lessons are free for the entire month!

Tillie Bishop congratulated the Recreation Department on behalf of the entire Parks and Recreation Board for earning this fantastic award!

#### Item 4 Western Colorado Golf Foundation

Tillie Bishop introduced Mike Knode and Gary Wuster from the recently incorporated Western Colorado Golf Foundation (WCGF). Mr. Knode stated that the WCGF has applied for and received ownership of the Rocky Mountain Open Golf Tournament and that the WCGF is currently in the application process and filing for non-profit status. Mr. Knode stated that the organization was mainly in existence, and was collectively designed, to encourage young people to get involved in the game of golf. Through the WCGF, young Western Slope golfers could apply, and possibly be provided with scholarships. A college scholarship could potentially be around \$5,000 per golfer. Lena Elliott inquired as to whether Mr. Knode and the WCGF had been in contact with Mesa State College about their desire to provide scholarships. Mr. Knode stated that he hadn't contacted Mesa State College and to clarify, the scholarships would not be exclusively limited to college scholarships. The scholarships could be used for golfers from the Western Slope who are playing competitively and the funds could be used for things such as travel expenses. Mr. Knode stated that the WCGF hopes to lock down many significant sponsors for the RMO and that the WCGF is also planning to host a Pro-Am in the spring.

Mr. Knode stated that his reasons for attending the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting today was to get an agreement for green's fees for 2000 with the City of Grand Junction. Gary Wuster stated that the WCGF hoped to have the green fees waived for the RMO and for the Pro-Am. Lena Elliott asked if the City had waived the green fees for the RMO. Mr. Knode stated, yes. Ms. Elliott asked if anyone on the WCGF was being paid. Mr. Knode stated, no. Mr. Wuster suggested that if the green fees for the RMO ProAm were waived, they would be amenable to letting the City open the golf courses at 2:30pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to public use. By Mr. Wuster's calculations, the extra play by the public *should* more than recoup any losses from having waived the green fees for the RMO.

Tillie Bishop and Lena Elliott expressed their surprise that the WCGF had assumed ownership of the RMO as they had always thought of the RMO as the City of Grand Junction's golf tournament. In addition, Ms. Elliott stated that per her discussion with Joe Stevens last week – she was unaware, and assumed that Mr. Stevens was unaware, that discussions would be taking place regarding “fees” at today's meeting. Mr. Knode stated that he hadn't brought the subject of fee waving until today's meeting. Mr. Wuster stated that the City would also recoup costs brought in by profits from carts, pro-shop inventory, etc. Mr. Bishop suggested that a strong agreement needs to be formalized with the WCGF. R.T. Mantlo agreed and stated that a strong agreement should have been initiated 6-7 years ago. Bob Cron asked Travis Bunkleman, Head Golf Professional, what he thought. Mr. Bunkleman stated that he agreed with Mr. Bishop and Mr. Mantlo regarding the necessity for an agreement as the WCGF, the City, and the Pro-shop would be heavily involved. Mr. Bishop recommended that Mr. Knode sit down with Joe Stevens, Doug Jones, and Travis Bunkleman to review the request and come up with a proposal for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Don Hobbs agreed that setting up a meeting was the correct approach to take.

Karen Madsen asked Don Hobbs if there were to be a recommendation for a fee waiver, would the recommendation need to go to City Council. Mr. Hobbs stated, yes. Bob Cron stated that he would like to see Mr. Knode again at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting with a proposal. Tillie Bishop also suggested the Mr. Knode speak with Mesa State College and George Strafas as well and that the City Attorney should possibly review the WCGF documents.

Bob Cron suggested to Mr. Knode that someone from Parks and Recreation should be on the WCGF Board of Directors to facilitate communication. Mr. Knode stated that he would be very happy with that arrangement. Travis Bunkleman will set-up a meeting in the near future with representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department and the WCGF.

The discussion then turned towards congratulating Travis Bunkleman on receiving the position of Director of Golf. The entire Parks and Recreation Board was very pleased with his being selected and wished him luck.

## **Item 5 Little Park Preserve**

Tillie Bishop introduced Katherine Robertson from the Bureau of Land Management. Bob Cron gave a brief background on the why Katherine was in attendance. Mr. Cron stated that several years ago Ms. Robertson had met with both Urban Trails and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding assuming management of the area known as Little Park Preserve (map attached). The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board apparently responded very quickly by going to the Grand Junction City Council. It has taken several years to get to this point where the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the Bangs Canyon Management Plan. The BLM next needs to determine whether the Museum of Western Colorado is willing to give up their lease and if Mesa County wishes to return their deeded property. Concurrently, the BLM is interested in turning over management to the City of Grand Junction

Ms. Robertson stated that there is a \$100 application fee and the following items would need to be provided to the BLM:

- Detailed description of the proposed project;
- Estimated cost of development, and the source of funds for development;
- Map showing the nature and location of facilities;
- Timetable for development
- Explanation of how the project will be maintained;
- Copy of the resolution from the City Council authorizing the filing and signing of the application.

Don Hobbs stated that conceptually, the City had understood that they would be adapting the BLM's plan rather than creating their own. Also, the City was told that the BLM would be closing the trailheads and that the City would basically be assuming management of a piece of land with no associated costs. Mr. Hobbs asked if the BLM still intended to close the trailheads. Ms. Robertson stated that at this time she didn't have money in her budget to do this. Mr. Hobbs inquired as to if money for this project would be budgeted in the future. Ms. Robertson stated that as Mr. Hobbs was aware, she didn't know what her budget would include from year to year. Ms. Robertson also stated that if the City was interested in taking over management of this parcel of land, she doesn't want to spend federal dollars on this project or try finding dollars in her own budget for this project.

Tillie Bishop stated that he thought the City's approach should be along the lines of "is this going to be a benefit for the City". Don Hobbs stated that from staff view, it would be necessary to see what the costs would be. If the BLM would add dollars or materials, volunteers could

possibly be brought in to make the project feasible for the City. Tillie Bishop suggested that this area could possibly be used as a Dog Park to let dog owners bring their dogs to run off a leash.

### **Item 6 Two Rivers Convention Center Update**

Michael Varnum passed out conceptual design documents for the Two Rivers Convention Center (TRCC) renovation and expansion (attached). Tillie Bishop went over the map and pointed out several of the exciting points of the renovation including larger kitchen, meeting rooms, as well as restrooms. Bob Cron stated that while on the subject of the TRCC – he wanted to congratulate Parks staff for the fantastic job they did on 1<sup>st</sup> Street improvements in the area around TRCC.

Mr. Varnum stated that they are currently working on the DDA Banquet and plans were going well. Mr. Varnum also stated that they are meeting with Community Hospital representatives about taking over decorating for their annual event. TRCC staff were also excited to begin working in conjunction with staff from Community Hospital in their kitchen as additional training and finding out how Community Hospital carries out their tasks.

### **Item 7 Master Plan Update**

Shawn Cooper passed out Winston Associates projected timeline (attached) to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members. Mr. Cooper stated that there were a few key dates however the most important for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would be the kick-off meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm.

Tillie Bishop asked that any information that would be available be sent to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board prior to the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Cooper stated that it wouldn't be a problem and he would make sure information was provided. Mr. Cooper also stated that there would be a focus group meeting scheduled shortly after the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. This would be an all day event and by no means were the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board expected to attend all day but they were encouraged to join for portions of the meeting. Mr. Cooper stated that he would get an agenda in the mail as soon as possible.

### **Item 8 Staff Reports**

#### Nations in Bloom

Don Hobbs was pleased to show the award received by the City of Grand Junction for landing second place in the international contest Nations in Bloom hosted in Hamamatsu, Japan several weeks ago. Mr. Hobbs stated that there was a video that the Department would like to show the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, however it was being converted from BETA to VHS.

## **Item 9 Correspondence**

Tillie Bishop referenced the article on a dog park that was included in the packet and recommended pursuing something along those lines. Shawn Cooper stated that he had received several calls regarding a dog park and suggested an area to Joe Stevens near the Botanic Gardens. Mr. Bishop recommended speaking to a veterinarian that might be interested in helping with this idea. Bob Cron relayed that in the Mesa County Fairgrounds Master Plan, he had seen an area that might be designated as a dog park/run.

## **Item 10 Other**

### Recreation Classes

Nora Huges inquired as to who in the department was responsible for selecting courses and making sure whether they run or not. Don Hobbs stated that the courses were under the supervision of Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent, and the Recreation Division. Mr. Hobbs stated that any input or suggestions on courses that Ms. Hughes might have would certainly be greatly appreciated as some of the best ideas came from suggestions outside the Department.

### PRAB Photos

Erika Doyle asked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board if they would be available to have their photographs taken Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Ms. Doyle is planning on using a photograph of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in the next Activity Guide if there is enough room. The meeting time was agreed to by all attendees.

### Congratulations & Thanks

Tillie Bishop congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department on their winning second place in Hamamatsu, Japan in the Nations in Bloom contest. Mr. Bishop also thanked the staff, on behalf of the entire board, for presenting the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with Department jackets.

### PRAB Meetings

Tillie Bishop stated that the commitment of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board might be outgrowing just a lunch hour meeting and the board should consider other options to meet the increased demands.

**Item 11 Adjourn**

Bob Cron moved to adjourn the meeting, Tillie Bishop seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Doyle  
Administrative Specialist