

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2000**

Item 1 Called to Order by Chairman Jamie Hamilton at 11:46 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Jamie Hamilton
 Tillie Bishop
 Bob Cron
 RT Mantlo

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
 Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
 Shawn Cooper, Park Planner
 Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
 Doug Jones, Golf Superintendent
 Mike Vendegna, Forestry/Cemetery Supervisor
 Travis Bunkleman, Director of Golf
 Erika Doyle, Administrative Specialist

Item 2 Approve Minutes

Tillie Bishop moved to approve the February 24, 2000 minutes with revisions. (The revised minutes are attached.) R.T. Mantlo seconded the motion.

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

Item 3 4th of July Fireworks

Joe Stevens introduced Dan Mason and Michael Murphy from one of Grand Junctions local television stations, KJCT. Mr. Stevens announced that after 20 years of coordinating Grand Junctions fireworks each 4th of July, the Women's Chamber of Commerce had decided to retire from hosting this event. The Parks and Recreation Department sent out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for sponsorship of this annual event and KJCT came up with what staff views as a great proposal by underwriting the entire event. The Parks and Recreation Department is proposing a 3-year contract with a 2-year option.

Tillie Bishop inquired as to whether the City will make any money out of this contract. Mr. Stevens stated no. In fact, the Women's Chamber of Commerce had been short over the last several years by \$3-4,000. Bob Cron asked if a 3-year contract with a 2-year option was a long enough term for KJCT. Mr. Mason stated yes, he was very pleased. R.T. Mantlo stated that it was great that KJCT is so excited about taking on this project.

Tillie Bishop moved that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommend that the City Council authorize a contract with KJCT for a period of 3-years with a 2-year option to sponsor the annual 4th of July fireworks show at Stoker Stadium. R.T. Mantlo seconded the motion.

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

Item 4 Western Colorado Golf Foundation

Joe Stevens introduced Jim Burns who was at the meeting representing the Western Colorado Golf Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Open Committee and gave a brief overview of the attached Action Form request. Mr. Stevens stated that the big changes would be that the City's Head Golf Professional (Travis Bunkleman) would be sitting on the Board of Directors representing the City's interests, the City would be receiving full revenue on cart rentals for the tournament, all amateur revenues would go through the City's pro-shop, the City of Grand Junction would be listed as a sponsor, and there would be a firm agreement in place.

Jamie Hamilton asked if people would still be able to claim their certificates from 1999 in the pro-shop. Travis Bunkleman stated that overall – no. There might be a few trickle in but all prize winners had twice been notified that the certificates were only good through December 1999. Mr. Hamilton asked if a RMO participant got upset, who they would go to. Joe Stevens answered that they would have to see the Rocky Mountain Open Committee/Western Colorado Golf Foundation as they are the primary sponsor. Mr. Hamilton asked if the City would be requiring insurance from the Western Colorado Golf Foundation. Mr. Stevens stated that both the Risk Manager and the City's legal staff would review the agreement and incorporate conditions commensurate with other sponsors of events in City facilities.

Tillie Bishop asked Jim Burns if there would be an endowment level that would be kept at a certain level, and added to, for financial stability down the road. Mr. Burns stated that currently they were trying to get everything set but agreed that a nest egg is necessary and that they would work on it. Bob Cron asked what the Parks and Recreation Department had planned on as far as opening the courses at 2:30pm to the public after each day's tournament. Joe Stevens stated that this option was not part of the equation but that Golf Course Staff would evaluate that possibility.

Tillie Bishop moved to recommend that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Western Colorado Golf Foundation for the purpose of running the Rocky Mountain Golf Tournament. Bob Cron seconded the motion.

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

Item 5 Professional Baseball

Joe Stevens stated that the City Council had directed the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to come up with some set guidelines for what would be acceptable if Grand Junction were to allow a baseball team to come to town (whether Pioneer League, Rookie League, Independent League, etc.) Mr. Stevens gave a brief overview of the attached guidelines. Jamie Hamilton asked if the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was also supposed to outline associated costs. Mr. Stevens stated that they could, however it would, in all likelihood, be impacted by negotiations. Mr. Hamilton stated that he thought that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should have some kind of associated costs prepared for Council. Mr. Hamilton also stated that Kevin Haughian has stated that he was the only one authorized, over the next 5 years, to bring a team to Grand Junction. Mr. Hamilton had asked Mr. Haughian to have someone from Major League Baseball confirm that fact. Mr. Hamilton is still waiting for the requested letter. Mr. Stevens stated that he would put together projected costs to the City for 30-50 home games including staffing, field maintenance, etc. Mr. Hamilton asked that the numbers be provided to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at their April meeting as he is scheduled to present to Council in May.

Bob Cron asked who pays for capital improvements. Mr. Stevens stated that capital improvements were covered in guideline #11. Mr. Hamilton suggested that the contract should state that if the baseball team requires or wishes capital improvements be made – it would be made at their own cost.

Tillie Bishop stated that knowing what a bad experience Pueblo had been through with their baseball team pulling out – it wouldn't be a bad idea to discuss with them what they might have done differently, especially as it relates to the contract.

Item 6 Other Business

Handball Court

Joe Stevens stated that he would be meeting with Maggie Doyenard later in the afternoon to discuss the handball court renovation. Mr. Stevens showed a draft of the plans for the corner of 24 & G Roads, which included a shelter as well as moving the BBQ pit. Currently, Parks and Recreation has funding for a portion of the plan. It is anticipated that there will be significant contributions from volunteers interested in upgrading the existing structure, along with additional site improvements. However, down the road regulation handball courts, horseshoe pits, etc. would be nice but there is no funding for these projects at this time.

Nations In Bloom Presentation

Mike Vendegna gave a slide & video presentation of the award winning Nations In Bloom contest.

Tillie Bishop congratulated Mr. Vendegna and Joe on their fantastic representation of the City of Grand Junction.

Item 7 Adjourn

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Doyle
Administrative Specialist