

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes August 19, 1999

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Jamie Hamilton
 Lena Elliott
 RT Mantlo
 Nora Hughes
 Bob Cron
 Jamie Hamilton

Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
 Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
 Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
 Michael Varnum, TRCC Manager
 Erika Doyle, Administrative Specialist

Item 2 Approval of Minutes

Lena Elliott moved to approve the July 8, 1999 minutes with the following two changes, RT Mantlo seconded the motion:

1. River Front Commission on Page 5 was misspelled under Item 5 Other Business.
2. Make reference that Tillie Bishop had requested to be excused from the July 8th Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting in Item 3.

Unanimously approved with changes: Yes 6 No 0

*Revised July 8th Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes are attached.

Item 3 Urruty Handball Court

Jamie Hamilton gave a brief overview of the past year and a half to the new Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members so that the overview, along with the information provided in the board packets would bring them up to date.

Joe Stevens presented the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Action Form and led into the discussion stating that this report is only on the table for review if the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board finds the Urruty handball court to be culturally significant. The alternatives were laid out as follows:

1. Reaffirm the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's decision to recommend that the handball court be eliminated and two new courts be built in Canyon View Park.
2. Recommend that the City of Grand Junction keep the existing court subject to at least \$25,000 being raised from private sources for renovation, preservation, and improvements to the handball court and "cultural site" at Canyon View Park on or before September 1, 2000. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board agrees to recommend that the City of Grand Junction come up with matching funds of at least \$25,000. (*Joe Stevens wanted to make a note that the date of September 1, 2001 was a typo and the date should be September 1, 2000.)
3. Recommend that the City of Grand Junction keep the court without conditions.
4. Recommend that the City of Grand Junction sell or donate the handball court.

Tillie Bishop asked if the Parks and Recreation Department had done a cost analysis for restoring the existing court versus building two new ones as well as analyzing the parking issue. Joe Stevens stated that a cursory evaluation by the City's Risk Management Division had been completed and it was determined that the facility was not designed or built for use as a public facility. It was recommended that the City obtain a structural engineering report to evaluate how much renovation is actually necessary. The court doesn't lend itself to regulation handball playing. Mr. Stevens stated that the parking lot was not the only issue, and in fact could be redesigned to work with the existing handball court. One of the most significant issues at hand is does the existing handball court fit in with the "vision" that was set for Canyon View Park as a whole.

Jamie Hamilton introduced Maggie Doyhenard who is the representative for the Basque community. Mrs. Doyhenard thanked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for allowing the Basques to speak at the meeting and for contemplating the presented alternatives. Mrs. Doyhenard had also read the alternatives and the Basque community would request the Board choose alternative number 2 (see above). Although for the most part they agreed with everything stated, if alternative number 2 was chosen she would like the wording in the first sentence to be changed as follows:

Recommend that the City of Grand Junction keep the existing court subject to at least \$25,000 of *in-kind services* ~~being raised~~ from private sources for renovation, preservation, and improvements to the handball court and “cultural site” at Canyon View Park on or before September 1, 2000.

Bob Cron told Mrs. Doyhenard that most other people requesting changes to a master plan have come up with actual funds. Mr. Cron asked if the Basques planned on coming up with any money in addition to their in-kind services. Mrs. Doyhenard stated that, no, the Basques would only be offering in-kind services. Mrs. Doyhenard stated that Cliff Mays will be laying the new floor, fixing the cracks in the walls, removal of the milk container, etc. and will do this in-kind. Mrs. Doyhenard wanted to assure the Board that the renovated court would be beautiful in its completion.

Tillie Bishop asked Mrs. Doyhenard what her thoughts were regarding having a “Plaza Urruty” in recognition of the Basques yet not keeping the handball court. Mrs. Doyhenard stated that it just wouldn’t be the same and the Basques would not be happy with that alternative.

Lena Elliott asked Mrs. Doyhenard if the Basques had ever considered moving the handball court to a new location. Mrs. Doyhenard stated no.

Mrs. Doyhenard stated that Mr. Lou Ciocco was unable to make the meeting as a representative of the Handball Advocates, however she represented that Mr. Ciocco would like to keep the existing handball court as well as add one new court to Canyon View Park.

Mrs. Doyhenard then introduced Mr. Quinten Jones from the Mesa County Historical Society. Mr. Jones spoke about this history of the Basque culture and thought that the City was destroying another faction of the Basque community as it had when it tore down a Basque owned hotel that was replaced by the Two Rivers Convention Center. The handball court in question is a fine example of the Basque culture and should definitely be preserved. Tillie Bishop asked Mr. Jones if he could define the term “historical”. Mr. Jones said he was hard pressed to come up with a definition stating that we could use the definition found in any dictionary, but he believed the definition to mean something along the lines of a certain individual or organization created structure that is significant.

Jamie Hamilton asked Mr. Jones if he thought a site could be historical without a structure (i.e. as in battlefields). Mr. Jones said yes.

Mr. Alan Workman took the floor asking that the Board take the thoughts of the Basques presented that day into consideration as this handball court is very significant to them.

Jamie Hamilton stated that he was very impressed with the speed and organization of which the Basques brought their letters of support from all areas including over 800 signatures. Lena Elliott expressed her thanks to the Basques for coming and presenting their history. Ms. Elliott also asked that the Basques understand where the Board was coming from and that their job was to maintain the vision of Canyon View Park.

Jamie Hamilton read the attached letter from Karen Madsen stating that she didn't feel the new information warrants a change, and she still believes the Board's plan is best for Canyon View Park.

Bob Cron stated that he had grown up in a small community, not unlike Grand Junction, where sheep herding was prominent. Mr. Cron agrees that although the site is not historical, he believes that it is culturally significant. Mr. Cron believes that the City can accommodate the parking factor as well as the handball court although he doesn't agree with the rest of Mrs. Doyhenard's plan.

Tillie Bishop stated that he would not be swayed by emotion in this decision. It is not a part of the master plan. If the City is going to recognize part of the past, yet move forward into the future – the court does not fit in with the plan.

RT Mantlo agreed with Mr. Bishop wholeheartedly and stated that we are talking more about Urruty's heritage rather than his court. We should recognize the Basques somehow or other (i.e. Urruty name), but our overall purpose should be to go forth with the master plan.

Nora Hughes asked Joe Stevens how keeping the court would affect the parking issue. Mr. Stevens answered that we could accommodate the court, amend the parking plan and still have required parking, but that the court's location is less than complimentary to Canyon View Park's master plan.

Lena Elliott moved that the Board choose alternative number 1 adding the verbiage in italics, Nora Hughes seconded the motion :

Reaffirm the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's decision to recommend that the handball court be eliminated and two new courts be built in Canyon View Park. *The area where the handball court currently stands will be, in some way, recognized and dedicated to the Basque community in the Grand Junction area - possibly by naming the court after the Urruty's.*

Vote: 4	Yes	Lena Elliott, RT Mantlo, Nora Hughes and Tillie Bishop
1	No	Bob Cron

Item 4 Capital Improvement/Funding Survey

Joe Stevens introduced Michael Simone of RRC Associates to the Board. Mr. Simone gave a brief description of what the survey would cover and passed out a preliminary questionnaire for the phone poll. Mr. Simone stated that this was a very rough draft and had passed it out to generate discussion and questions. Mr. Simone also gave the background of his company to the new members of the Board stating that the company had been in existence for over 25 years. RRC Associates is approximately ½ planning and ½ market research and they have tackled projects successfully around the country dealing with varying projects (i.e. transportation and affordable housing). Some of the towns that RRC Associates has worked with in the recent past includes Brighton, Fraser, Steamboat Springs, Breckenridge, Telluride and Carson, Nevada.

Tillie Bishop asked Mr. Simone about what information they could provide as far as demographics at this point. Mr. Simone stated that they weren't at that phase yet, but assured the Board that they would have a large sampling from all areas of the City.

Joe Stevens asked what the margin of error could be projected as. Mr. Simone stated that depending on the split of the people being polled, the margin of error changes. For example, Mr. Simone showed that if there was a 50/50 split, the margin of error would be somewhere around 6%. If the split were more along the lines of 65/35, the margin of error would be about 5%+/- and so on.

Joe Stevens asked the Board to forward any specific questions or concerns to him within the next week so that he would have time to forward them to Mr. Simone and have the survey revised.

Item 5 Monthly Staff Reports

No questions.

Item 6 Other BusinessCommunity Hospital

Lena Elliott asked Joe Stevens how Community Hospital responded to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board decision. Mr. Stevens responded that they had signed the contract and things were moving forward.

Two Rivers Convention Center

Lena Elliott asked where we were with the renovation process. Joe Stevens stated that he was in need of a couple volunteers from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the interview process. Lena Elliott, Nora Hughes, and Tillie Bishop volunteered to sit on the interview panel.

Classic Golf

Joe reported that at this time, two of the three partners within Classic Golf that are in the process of trying to acquire 100% interest in operation from the third partner, Bo Bostrom. The new “acting” head professional is Jim Neville. The day-to-day operation is being headed up by Doug Naylor. Classic golf hosted the BLT Tournament and organizer comments were favorable. The Cancer Society had the same result and seemed to be pleased overall. The Rocky Mountain Open starts next week and the field is full for amateur players. Revenue is still short, but won’t be as short as the predicted \$7,500.

Lena Elliott stated that she had been called by an anonymous source and was told that Jim Neville had moved his family back to California and was concerned that Classic Golf may be ready to pull out if the City will let them out of their contract. Joe Stevens said that he had just met with Mr. Neville earlier that morning and he hadn’t mentioned anything of the sort. Mr. Neville’s father was gravely ill in Florida and wanted to make Mr. Stevens aware that he may have to fly to Florida at a moment’s notice. No discussion ensued regarding Classic Golf wanting out of their contract.

Zone Swim Meet

Tillie Bishop relayed that he had been present at the Zone Swim Meet earlier in the week and heard very good things from the participants. Mr. Bishop also wanted to state that he was very happy to be on this Board and thanked Joe Stevens and Shawn Cooper for taking the new members on a tour of the parks facilities. Also, while we disagree on our votes – Mr. Bishop feels that it is very healthy.

Bob Cron

Bob Cron will be out of town for the next meeting.

Item 7 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Doyle
Administrative Specialist