

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Special Meeting Minutes
October 12, 1999**

Item 1 Called to Order by Chairman Jamie Hamilton at 12:10 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members:

Jamie Hamilton, Chair
Lena Elliott
RT Mantlo
Nora Hughes

Parks & Rec Staff :

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor
Travis Bunkleman, Interim Golf Course Manager
Erika Doyle, Administrative Specialist

City Administration:

Mark Achen, City Manager

Visitor Convention Bureau:

Debbie Kovalik, Director

Item 2 PGA Career Services Consultant – Jeff Beaudry

Jamie Hamilton introduced Mr. Jeff Beaudry a Career Services Consultant with the Professional Golf Association. Mr. Beaudry gave brief overview of his background and said that he sees himself as a resource for the City of Grand Junction to assist in matching our courses with qualified PAG candidates based on our needs.

Jamie Hamilton stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board isn't quite sure where they want to go from here. He also stated that the Board has been highly pleased with the efforts of Travis Bunkleman as compared to that of Classic Golf and their management.

R.T. Mantlo inquired as to whom would manage the course if the City opted to utilize Mr. Beaudry's services as a consultant. Mr. Beaudry stated that as of late, it has been most popular to hire a manager as an employee of the City and let the City maintain control over the operation as a whole. Clay Holcomb asked how Mr. Beaudry would go about recommending a manager to the City of Grand Junction. Mr. Beaudry answered that he has an extensive database compiled of PGA members and resumes at his disposal. Mr. Beaudry would contact approximately 200 candidates fitting the necessary qualifications, salary range, etc. given by the City. From there he would narrow down the list of qualified candidates to run Lincoln Park and Tiara Rado golf course and give the City a list and resumes of candidates that have a good chance of making a "match".

Lena Elliott asked if Mr. Beaudry would still be able to assist the City in finding a qualified candidate if the City decided to again allow an independent contractor to operate the courses. Mr. Beaudry stated that although the trend is to bring a manager on staff with the City, regardless of the direction the City takes – he would make his consulting services available.

Mike Knode asked if there was a better time of year to be in the process of looking for new management and is there a process that we should begin with. Mr. Beaudry stated that this was the perfect time of year as many contracts are getting ready to expire and there is a good possibility many managers are looking for new opportunities. As far as a process, Mr. Beaudry recommended that the City organize a large research committee comprised of representatives from several golfing groups including (but not limited to) seniors, men's, ladies, juniors, professionals, etc. This research committee could siphon through the majority of the resumes and make recommendations to a smaller selection committee. Mr. Beaudry was asked what he foresaw for Grand Junction, for example one head-pro and two assistants. Mr. Beaudry stated that he didn't know at this time and wouldn't want to overstep his bounds by projecting.

Mark Achen stated that he felt our biggest dilemma at this point was the business side of the operation and was concerned that it might be difficult to locate a person that has all the necessary skills (customer service, golf, and business). Mr. Achen inquired as to how the City of Grand Junction could judge these skills in a candidate making sure that the person had the business know how as well as the customer service skills. Mr. Beaudry stated that the PGA was truly working on recruiting candidates with good business skills, as this has become a necessity in their golf professionals. Mr. Beaudry offered that it would be beneficial to ask many "business oriented" questions of the candidates when they fill out their profile (i.e. how much budget experience do they have, etc.) Also, Mr. Beaudry assumes that throughout the interview process – we should have a good handle on actual experience and qualifications of candidates versus what is stated on their resumes. Mr. Beaudry concluded by giving some industry background of growth in the golfing community over the past decade. Basically, golf courses have been increasing in number (12,600 in 1990 vs. 16,100 in 1999) and golfers have been decreasing in number.

Item 3 Recognition of RMO Committee

Jamie Hamilton expressed his and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's appreciation to the volunteer members of the 1999 Rocky Mountain Open Committee along with a plaque commemorating this year's golf tournament.

Members on this committee include:

Trish Summers, Bill Claycomb, Gary Wooster, Mike and Terri Knode, Bob LaDuke, Jan McKissen, Jim Burns, Clay Hamlin and Char Fields.

Item 4 Proposed Golf Liaison Committee

Clay Holcomb presented a proposal of assistance to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (see attached). This proposal included the addition of a Golf Liaison Committee to help the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with the golf community at large.

Lena Elliott asked Mike Knode if the presenters of the attached proposal did not feel as though they had a good relationship with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Knode stated that he understood that the Board had an enormous amount on their plate and that they oversee a very broad spectrum. This committee would assist and be focused solely on the aspect of golf. Mrs. Elliott inquired as to the presenters if they felt the Parks and Recreation Board hadn't been responsive to their previous requests and did Mr. Knode truly feel the need for such an organized committee? Mr. Knode stated that in his personal experience with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, they had always been responsive. However, they should definitely have a committee focused on golf. Mrs. Elliott stated that she was concerned with the possibility of "micro-managing" and having the golf committee at the Parks and Recreation office on a daily basis instructing the staff on how and how not to operate the golf courses. Mr. Knode answered that it would be up to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to set perimeters for the golf committee. Mr. Knode stated that the proposed committee is willing to assist in any capacity and just wants to help with overall betterment of the local golf community and experience.

Jamie Hamilton stated that do to the fact Tillie Bishop, Bob Cron, and Karen Madsen were unable to attend this special meeting – he would bring it up for discussion in detail at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting which will take place Wednesday, October 20, 1999.

Lena Elliott inquired if the attached list of people were the proposed committee members? Mr. Knode stated that these were the people that got together to establish a baseline criteria and that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board could appoint a committee if they so wished.

Item 5 Nations In Bloom

Joe Stevens gave a brief background on how he came across the contest for Nations in Bloom. His original thoughts were to have the Parks and Recreation Department "practice" this year and then get serious about the competition next year. To Mr. Stevens surprise, we recently received notification that the Grand Junction Parks Department had made it to the finals along with nine other cities in our category from around the world. Nations in Bloom has invited two presenters to Hamamatsu, Japan in February of 2000.

Visitor and Convention Bureau Director, Debbie Kovalik, presented her view of this incredible recognition to the Board. In her view, this contest would be much more valuable to the City of Grand Junction as it is international versus just national. This particular contest has been in existence for nearly 50 years and holds much notoriety world wide. Not only would this be fantastic recognition for the City of Grand Junction,

it would be a great “training” for the Director and the City Forester as to parks, forestry, and landscaping trends throughout the world. Ms. Kovalik also stated that it would be very beneficial to send a City Official as an ambassador of Grand Junction as it would be looked upon as a great honor by the Japanese people. Gifts for other ambassadors would also be appropriate for the appointed travelers for this presentation.

Lena Elliott on behalf of the Board expressed their congratulations and noted that the Department should be very proud as it was noticeable how much time and creativity went into preparing the packet. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board wanted to especially acknowledge Vicki Beltran and Mike Vendegna for their efforts.

Lena Elliott moved to approve and pursue whatever means necessary to make the trip to Japan possible for the City of Grand Junction. R.T. Mantlo seconded the motion.

Unanimously approved: Yes 4 No 0

Mike Vendegna presented the CommuniTree Award for the “Battle Against the Bugs” Project. This award was received recently by the Grand Junction Parks Division in the Colorado Tree Competition.

Item 7 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Doyle
Administrative Specialist