

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

March 18, 1999

Item 1 Called to order by Chairman Lena Elliott at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Lena Elliott
Jamie Hamilton
R T Mantlo
John Gormley
Dennis Teeters
Karen Madsen

Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Asst. Director
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Gail Woodmansee, Sr. Admin Secretary

Item 2 Approval of Minutes

John Gormley moved and Dennis King seconded a motion to approve the February 18, 1999 minutes.

Approved: Yes 6 No 0

Item 3 Grand Junction Community Center - Presentation

Guests: Art Moss and Dave Norman

The committee looking at bringing a community center to the Fruita area expanded its efforts to include the Grand Junction area. A graduate student helped compile the information with the assistance of Jon Schler who has experience in design. Information contained in the 1995 Parks and Recreation master plan and recreation center feasibility study is also included and suggests that a community center is needed. The original idea was a senior center but a community center with a senior section would better serve the Grand Valley.

In speaking with individuals and groups, roughly 50% would be willing to pay for a center.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board supports the efforts of this committee and during the numerous meetings with the Parks Development Task Force, a community center was recommended but not the top priority at the time. The Board does feel it is time to research the feasibility of a community center and has asked the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to assist with a local survey. This organization will compile information that would reflect the sentiment of the community and their willingness to support this large project

Item 4 Proposal from the Trust for Public Lands (TPL)

Joe will be contacting Susan Childs with Trust for Public Lands to confirm TPL's presentation to council on April 5 to discuss survey methodology, logistics and to see if council supports this approach.

Item 5 Impact Fee Study

Currently, the City of Grand Junction collects \$225 per single family unit for the parks open space fund. Jamie Hamilton stated that the \$225 is not enough. John Gormley stated that is not necessarily fair to "tag" all new development with the fee and Dennis King stated that developers have suggested that they will not build inside the city limits because development fees are already too high.

The report attempts to show the full impact of park development at around \$2,000 fee is what it costs yet the fee may only be set around \$1,000. The fee would be impacted by what level of service is expected. In addition, county residents are using all of the City facilities but not subject to an impact fee.

Lena Elliott stated she would like to wait for the TPL study and then make a recommendation. The remainder of the Board was in agreement.

Item 6 Park Project Updates

A. Wingate Park

Ken Scissors, a resident near Wingate Elementary, looked at the park plan and the proposal to fund in the year 2007. The area residents would like to see this park developed but currently, no funds exist to move the project from 2007.

Lena will contact Mr. Scissors and explain the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board position along with the Parks Development Task Force's earlier recommendations.

B. Little Park Reserve (Bang's Canyon)

Guest – Catherine Robertson

The BLM and the City of Grand Junction have been working together to transfer the Bang's Canyon property (1100 acres) to the City for a mountain park. The area can be reached using the Monument Road trailhead, which presently is getting a lot of use. The City, once transferred, would be responsible for the maintenance of the area, addition of signage, maintenance of the trailhead and the possible development of a restroom facility in the future.

The BLM will try to leverage funds along with the in-kind services pledged by the City to obtain financial assistance to rehabilitate the four-wheel drive roads and damage. User groups are also interested in helping to set trails and clean up areas.

Lena Elliott stated that the Board would need to look at the property and make a formal recommendation. Joe will set up a date and time with the Board to view the property.

Item 7 Minutes – Other Agencies

No comments.

Item 8 Monthly Staff Reports

No comments.

Item 9 Correspondence

- The Board received a letter from Dick Mantlo regarding the fees for the use of the baseball fields (\$65/game) and would like to request that the board look at the fees. Dick Mantlo will be out of town during Spring break but would like to address the Board when he returns.

Don Hobbs stated that the feedback on the Canyon View baseball field is favorable and teams prefer the playing condition to that of Suplezio but would like to see restrooms and a scoreboard. Additional improvements have been made at the field including changing out the lower 12' of the backstop to green material, moving the bleachers to the sides instead of behind the backstop and a screen was put in deep center field.

Item 10 Other Business

- The lighting at Canyon View – the money was budgeted and the shields have been installed. Prior to installation, the parking lot lights were shutting off when softball lights were turned on now they are not so it is a sign that there is some improvement.

Item 10 Next Meeting – April 22, 1999

Item 11 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Woodmansee
Senior Administrative Secretary

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