

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes May 20, 1999

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Lena Elliott
 RT Mantlo
 Karen Madsen
 John Gormley
 Dennis King

City Council Members Present: Reford Theobald

Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
 Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
 Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
 Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
 Erika Doyle, Administrative Specialist

Item 2 Approval of Minutes

John Gormley moved and Dennis King seconded a motion to approve the April 22, 1999 minutes. Approved: Yes 5 No 0

Item 3 Bangs Canyon Update by Keith Mumby

Several areas were touched upon (all of which are described in detail on the attached handout).

There were questions as to what the next step is. Keith Mumby thought the next procedure would be a public hearing in June to answer questions. Keith is still waiting on notification from the BLM to tell him when transfer will occur. There was also a question as to who will be patrolling the area. Currently, there is a volunteer mountain bike patrol and they are covered by BLM insurance. Keith will ask Dave Roper (Risk Management) if they will be under City coverage after the transfer.

Item 4 Handball Advocates

Handball Advocate Representatives Present:

Lou Ciocco, 542 Ridgestone Court, 241-1100
Charles Holcom, 2466 Cimarron Drive, 245-5871
Jim Tarr, 3456 D Road, 434-6824
Steve Pearo, 2502 North 1st Street, 256-2651
Rick Hartman, 623 Partee Drive, 243-4698
Jeffrey D. Smith, 1126 – 24 Road, 248-5422

Joe Stevens and Shawn Cooper spoke to the Handball Advocates regarding the City's position and decision about the existing handball court located at 24 Road & G Road. Having looked at trying to salvage the handball court, it was determined to be too difficult to accommodate long-term improvements at Canyon View Park if the handball court is not torn down. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), however, will be recommending that the City Council authorize the building of two new regulation handball courts north of the parking lot at a cost of \$45,000 to \$50,000. This idea was generally well received by the Handball Advocates, although they did express that the historical value of the existing handball court will be missed.

The time frame shows the existing court being torn down by July 1999. It will most likely be a year or more before the new courts are built. Handball representatives asked if there was any possibility of constructing the courts this year. Joe stated that if a grant is offered or matching funds, etc., the PRAB might be able to push it up, but it would be difficult. Otherwise PRAB will need to stick to its budget. Shawn Cooper was asked if the new courts would fit in the spot where the existing court is. Shawn answered that, yes it would fit – however, it would then conflict with access to parking, planned landscaping, etc. so the new courts will be located north of the parking lot. It was stressed that the new courts will be prioritized and incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvements request for City Council consideration. While a high priority of the PRAB, authorization must come from the City Council by way of the 2000-2001 Budget.

Item 5 Classic Golf

Classic Golf Representatives Present:

Bo Bostrom
Jon Lavell
Jim Neville

The intent of this meeting was to reiterate, the City's expectations of Classic Golf after having received numerous negative letters and telephone calls from angry golfers as well as several meetings with unsatisfied golfing clients.

Joe Stevens expects 1) that the Classic Golf operation to be turned around immediately or 2) that Classic Golf voluntarily leave. Joe doesn't want the City or the PRAB to receive a bad name because of Classic Golf's actions. The Parks and Recreation Department is in a bad position because some patrons are asking the City to fire Classic Golf because of their negative experiences. Joe doesn't believe that Classic Golf is listening to its customers.

Jon Lavell believes that the PRAB is questioning Classic Golf's ability to carry out what they stated they would do. John said that there are always stumbling blocks and they realize there were some misunderstandings, but Classic Golf fully intends to correct everything. The Classic Golf representatives agreed that they had gone backwards since taking over the operation but were doing everything possible to correct this situation.

Joe Stevens asked Bo Bostrom about a specific incident where Bo used profanity while addressing some of the golfers and he denied ever saying a rude word to either the men's or ladies golf groups.

Lena Elliott expressed to the Classic Golf representatives that PRAB wasn't going to tell them how to manage their employees, but she wanted to clarify that the City is concerned with the service the public was receiving and that they wanted it fixed. Lena suggested that a meeting should be set-up by Classic Golf with the Men's and Ladies Golf groups to express that they are trying to make a concerted effort to remedy any and all situations. Joe agreed and advised that Classic Golf proceed immediately with this suggestion.

The Classic Golf representatives stated that they would be very active in turning the operation around so that a drastic improvement would be seen within a couple of weeks.

John Gormley asked when the Pro-Shop would be fully stocked. The City had been told that the Pro-Shop would be stocked better than it had been previous to Classic Golf taking over. So far, it has been unacceptable. Classic Golf said that they'd had some problems with their distributors, but hoped to have the majority of the ordered merchandise on the shelves within a week. John also recommended a few action items to Classic Golf:

1. NEVER reprimand or fire an employee in front of the public.
2. Go on bended knee to the men's and women's clubs as well as the public and resolve these problems.
3. Keep a line of communication open with Joe Stevens so that he is better apprised of any situations that might arise. This way he won't be blindsided.

Item 6 Monthly Staff Reports

Shawn Cooper presented the timeline for the Two Rivers Convention. The project should end in mid to late 2001.

Item 7 Other Business

Cemetery Development Fee

Joe Stevens brought up the subject of the cemetery development fee. Over the last couple of days, and as a result of a Daily Sentinel story and editorial on a development fee established in 1986 at municipal cemeteries, staff have been doing a little background work and trying to understand the issue that has pretty much been dormant for 13 years. The City Clerk indicated that her office has received several inquiries regarding the fee and the reason for its implementation. Once explained, the customer, while probably less than pleased, generally accepts the explanation. The new fee was listed with Parks fees, recommended by the Parks Board and adopted by council by way of a resolution. In our limited research, it was viewed as a way to offset revenue shortfalls at the cemetery and has generally been accepted by those buying lots before and after 1986 with little controversy.

Cemetery Staff and the Clerk's Office have tried to get a handle on what it might take if a concerted effort were made to contact all those individuals that purchased lots prior to 1986 so that we could notify and inform them of the "new fee". It appears that if they can be identified in a timely manner, we're talking about several thousand lot owners. It will take considerable time to go through a 3" x 5" card file (the data prior to 1986 is not automated). If we are able to send notices to these folks, chances are high that at least 50% will be returned because they have moved and have not given us their new addresses. The gentleman interviewed for the Sentinel story had moved three times since 1973, so it is doubtful he would have received a timely notice had it been mailed in 1986.

The Clerk's Office was able to accommodate this gentleman's concerns and save him some money too. He decided to use one lot and be cremated. In essence he can be cremated along with his wife on one lot, pay 25% of the "traditional development fee" (\$230 vs. \$57.50) and sell the extra lot for more than the 1973 purchase price.

While it will take some time and effort, staff can "gear up" and attempt to let buyers know the score but there is not a readily identifiable easy, quick, or simple way of correcting a thirteen year old issue.

Joe requested a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Karen Madsen moved NOT to notify. Dennis King seconded this motion. The Board voted unanimously to take no action on the suggestion that the City try to contact purchasers of cemetery lots prior to 1986.

Item 7 Next Meeting – June 18, 1999

Item 8 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika L. Doyle
Administrative Specialist

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