

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **January 17, 2002**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Tillie Bishop at 11:45 a.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present:                   Tillie Bishop  
  Bernie Goss  
  Bob Cron  
  Lena Elliott  
  Dennis Derrieux

Board Member Absent:                   Nora Hughes

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:    Joe Stevens, Director  
  Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
  Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
  Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner  
  Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent  
  Sherry Swager (intern)

### **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Bernie Goss moved to approve the December 20, 2001 minutes. Dennis Derrieux seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:   Yes 5                   No 0

### **Item 3: Interpretive Signs Update**

Bob Cron reported on the status of the interpretive sign information that was presented at the November 15, 2001 Board meeting by Kathy Holly with the Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery program. The presentation has been reviewed in detail with the suggested changes being implemented. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery have requested proposals and hope to move forward soon. The Division of Wildlife would like the city to maintain and replace the signs after the initial installation. Discussion ensued regarding the eligibility of city funds to support any ongoing maintenance for such signs. Joe Stevens expressed his desire to be notified of the potential costs for maintaining the project. Tillie Bishop stated that he would like to see city funds set aside for interpretive sign maintenance and suggested that the Division of Wildlife contribute any fund balances (following purchase and installation) to an on-going maintenance fund.

#### **Item 4: Water Retention Areas**

Bob Cron expressed his concern regarding decisions being made on water retention areas for storm run-offs. Shawn Cooper stated that no decisions have been made and that all plans are in the preliminary stages. He reported that current areas proposed for water retention are West Lake Park, Tope (north vacant lot), Sherwood Park and Grand Junction High School. It was requested that Public Works present the information at the March 2002 Board meeting.

#### **Item 5: Scheduled Chamber of Commerce Presentation – Guests included Mike Anton, Diane Schwenke, Rob Bickley and Dale Reece**

Diane Schwenke briefly introduced representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. Diane reported that approximately two years ago the Chamber decided to form a Regional Hub Committee. The purpose of the committee was to determine where Grand Junction would be headed during the next 5, 10 and 20 years. Once completed, the committee had Mesa State College conduct a survey to determine the most common reasons visitors come to Grand Junction. The survey revealed that the top three reasons were shopping, medical services and education. The weak areas for Grand Junction tourism also were identified, and included our regional airport status.

The Regional Hub Committee is proposing an event center be built, which would consist of 10,000 seats or more and would be used for events such as hockey, basketball, concerts, community events, etc. The benefits would include the attraction of more businesses, creation of additional jobs and would provide economic development without community growth problems. The Mesa State survey also compared Grand Junction to three other cities with similar demographics; Casper Wyoming, Billings Montana and Pocatello Idaho. All three cities currently have an event center that each generate approximately \$5 - \$6 million annually.

The designated location would have to be in a non-residential area with easy access to the interstate and will require a minimum of 50 acres. Visible hotels and restaurants are a necessity. Based on these requirements, the committee has identified four potential sites at this time; Horizon Drive, 29 Road, 24 Road or Las Colonias Park. Mike Anton reported that the city stated they would be interested in assisting with the infrastructure costs if the facility is located by Horizon Drive.

The proposed facility would consist of 9 full-time employees and approximately 230 part-time employees. It's estimated cost is \$25 - \$30 million without ice. If ice were included, the price would increase by approximately \$5 - \$10 million. The estimated economic impact is \$5 - \$6 million / year. In order for the center to pay for itself, it would need to hold a minimum of 100 events / year. The estimated timetable for completion is 5 years.

Questions still unanswered:

1. Where will the money to build it come from?
2. Where will the money to maintain it come from?
3. Who will run the facility?

4. Does a more detailed study need to be done by professionals?

Tillie Bishop requested the Board take a position regarding the support of the proposed event center. A motion to write a letter to the Chamber of Commerce stating the Board's support of the concept to build an event center was made by Bob Cron. Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

**Item 6: Field Names**

Bernie Goss distributed a draft qualification and criteria list for selecting potential candidates. (See attached) The purpose is to recognize people who have been long term contributors and/or sponsors. Discussion ensued regarding the individual criterias and the importance of making fair decisions. The draft was reviewed and suggestions were made, including the addition of Rob Evans and Harold Elam to the list of candidates. Five possible locations have been identified; Kronkright Complex (2 softball fields), Columbine Park (2 softball fields) and Canyon View Park (1 baseball field). Tillie Bishop requested that Bernie present a small biography for each candidate at the next Board meeting upon which further discussions will take place.

**Item 7: Scoreboard Contract Negotiations**

Joe Stevens reported that the negotiations with Coke, for a scoreboard at the Canyon View baseball field, have been terminated. Pepsi is currently reviewing the contract. Coke had requested contract language that the city could not agree to. Joe stated that funding is available to purchase the scoreboard if Pepsi does not wish to purchase it. The goal is to have the scoreboard installed before the 2002 season starts.

**Item 6: Olympic Torch**

Tillie Bishop reported that the Olympic Torch would arrive in Grand Junction at 4:00 p.m. on February 2, 2002. The celebration will provide national media coverage and is anticipated to draw an extremely large crowd. The festivities will take place on Main Street and is seen as an excellent opportunity to display the new Two Rivers Convention Center.

**Item 7: Staff Reports**

Shawn Cooper distributed the Phase II tentative design schedule for Canyon View Park. (See attached) He reported that the requests for proposal are due back by February 21, 2002. Consultants will then be selected and a master plan for the final phase will be developed. Approximately \$770,000 in funding is available for the park, with an estimate of \$650,000 - \$675,000 to be used for construction.

**Item 8: Other Business**

The grand opening of the Two Rivers Convention Center was discussed. Overall, it was felt that there was an outstanding turnout, with approximately 1500 hot dogs given away. Lena Elliott commented on the minimal greenery. Joe Stevens reported that not all of the facilities furniture and accessories have been received at this time, some items are still on back-order.

Dennis Derreiux expressed his concern regarding the Grand Junction welcome sign seen when approaching from the Delta side. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed that several of the welcome signs need to be updated and/or refurbished.

Don Hobbs reported on the status of future Women's Professional Football League games being held in Grand Junction. The league originally requested 7 Saturday dates between April and July 2002. Numerous conflicts were identified, including the upcoming track renovation. The league later requested alternative dates, including Sundays. Don is currently constructing a response letter consisting of 4 available dates in April and May. The potential contract will be similar to the contract offered to the Outlaws (Men's Professional Football League), which includes payment to the city for a percentage of all softgood sales and the rental of locker rooms.

Discussion ensued regarding the concession stand workers' performance. Joe Stevens reported that improvements are desired and that staff has been working to remedy the situation with contracted service. Customer service remains the concern and will be addressed appropriately.

**Item 9: Adjourn**

Lenna Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Bernie Goss seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 5            No 0

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist