

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **February 28, 2002**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Tillie Bishop at 12:00 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

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

Invited Guests:                            Kelly Arnold, City Manager  
  Ron Lappi, Finance Director  
  Harry Butler, City Councilman  
  Jim Spehar, City Councilman  
  Dennis Kirtland, City Councilman  
  Dan Patten, WCCA Executive Director  
  Pat Kennedy, Riverfront Commission Co-Chair  
  Lenna Watson, Riverfront Commission Co-Chair

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

Bob Cron moved to approve the January 17, 2001 minutes. Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:   Yes 6                    No 0

Bob Cron then moved to make an amendment to Item 4 (Water Retention Areas) of the January 17, 2001 minutes, which would include Sherwood Park. Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:    Yes 6                    No 0

**Item 3: Guests**

Tillie Bishop welcomed meeting guests and thanked them for their attendance.

**Item 4: Discussion with City Council & City Staff on Tabor & the Capital Improvement Program**

Discussion ensued regarding the impact of Tabor on the Capital Improvement Programs for the Parks & Recreation Department. Currently there are only two major projects in the existing budget; 1) Renovation of the track at Lincoln Park and 2) Phase II of Canyon View Park. With the recent update from GOCO that, due in part to “Powerball”, they anticipate reaching their \$47 million target this year, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is interested in pursuing additional funds from the City to be used as a match for a possible GOCO Legacy grant.

Tillie Bishop requested Pat Kennedy provide additional information regarding the GOCO funding / grant process. Pat Kennedy reported there are currently 14 partners in the Legacy group, including the City of Grand Junction. Some of the past Legacy projects have included Eagle Rim Park, Las Colonias Park Master Plan and Fruita State Park. Pat expressed the need to be aggressive in applying for GOCO Legacy funding, due to the funds currently available and the fact that several partners do not have current projects in the works. Mr. Kennedy also implied his concern of the longevity of the GOCO Legacy program, however, Joe Stevens replied that he had just received a phone call from GOCO stating that a recommendation had just passed out of sub committee recommending funding through 2024, justification included last November when voter approval was received for GOCO to incur debt. The deadline for the concept paper is March 18, 2002.

Bob Cron reported on the current status of the Riverfront Commission project, stating that the vision is to have greenway the entire length of Mesa County along the Colorado River and the length of Mesa County along the Gunnison River. The Riverfront Commission began receiving GOCO Legacy grants in 1996, each occurring in three-year increments. Bob stated that the Riverfront Commission has established an excellent reputation, therefore, he feels the chances of success for future projects, with good participation, are also excellent.

Tillie Bishop expressed that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is concerned that the City will not have any projects in the Legacy program due to the lack of funds available for the required grant match. Mr. Bishop requested comments from the attending City Council members. Dennis Kirtland began by commending the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the City for all that has been done in the past. Dennis then referred to a recent City Council retreat, in which the top 5 upcoming issues were discussed. The Tabor restrictions were identified as one of the issues, and a Tabor Issues Committee was formed. (See attached information) City Council has determined that the City will operate under the Tabor regulations, as they have no intention of pursuing the issue again with the voters. Therefore, all City grant applications must be reviewed before submittal, due to the effect of the Tabor restrictions, which could result in mandatory refunds to the public.

City Council plans to schedule meetings with numerous groups in the Grand Valley (i.e., Arts Commission, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Library Board, Chamber of Commerce, etc.) to discuss the identified budget limitations and projects in detail. Council member Kirtland reported the City currently has received \$101 million worth of project funding requests. However, the City has made a major commitment to transportation improvement and to a public safety facility on the Redlands. Therefore, at the recent retreat, City Council made the decision to discourage “multi-year” project funding, as they do not feel they are any longer in a position to do so. Kelly Arnold stated that City Council intends to develop and implement an application process for future projects prior to the next budget cycle.

Dan Patten, WCCA Executive Director, reported that they have been successful in obtaining a collaboration of small groups in order to complete projects in the past 2 years. He feels the area along the river remains a vital piece for Grand Junction, and that improvements to the area would strengthen downtown as well. Dan stated that his group has also approached the Downtown Development Authority for support. Jim Spehar stated that the ultimate location of the Riverside Parkway and the combined storm/sewer project would also effect the downtown area.

Kelly Arnold recommended Bob Cron complete the concept paper in order to meet the March 18<sup>th</sup> deadline as long as there would be no political ramifications if the final project is unable to be approved. Joe Stevens reminded the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board that there are other existing projects that must be addressed, such as neighborhood parks and Canyon View Park’s need for \$3 million to wholly complete Phase II, with only \$750,000 currently available.

Bernie Goss recommended the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board possibly refocus due to the numerous additional projects occurring in the downtown area.

#### **Item 5: Field Names**

Bernie Goss distributed information including minutes from a 1995 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting that adopted guidelines on naming City facilities. (See attached) Discussion ensued on whether or not to proceed based on the guidelines, or to possibly amend the guidelines. Tillie Bishop requested the board to delay in making any decision until such time as the board is able to review the information in detail.

#### **Item 6: Other Business**

Bob Cron briefly reported that the bids for the confluence signs have been received and were surprisingly good. He stated there would be enough funds to purchase the signs and to put aside additional funds for future replacements.

Lenna Watson, Riverfront Commission Co-chair, wanted it recorded that the Riverside Transportation Corridor plans had never been brought to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board prior to this meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding consultants on additional upcoming projects, such as the Lincoln Park track renovations and Phase II of Canyon View Park. Shawn Cooper reported that the

recommendations to City Council on Canyon View Park would tentatively be made in March, with a contract in April. Shawn also reported that the Mesa County Football Organization offered to contribute \$40,000 for irrigation at Canyon View Park.

Joe Stevens provided an update on the BLM land transfer. BLM has offered to transfer ownership of approximately 1,100 acres between the Colorado National Monument and the City's urban areas. The City has requested that the non-motorized traffic stipulation be resolved prior to City Council consideration about the transfer of this property.

**Item 8: GOCO Discussion (Continued):**

Discussion ensued relating to the previous GOCO agenda discussion. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members expressed how they personally interpreted the response from the City Councilmen. All agreed that the message from Council was clear; we will have to live with less and there is not a strategy from City Council to override Tabor. The citizens have spoken and we have to live with Tabor unless the citizens petition the electorate for change. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board decided to send a thank you letter to all of the guests who attended. The board members also discussed the possibility of holding a "Recreation Summit" in the near future. Bob Cron and Dennis Derrieux were assigned as a sub-committee to explore the value and the necessary requirements for sponsoring this type of gathering.

**Item 9: Adjourn**

Lenna Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Cron seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist