

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **March 21, 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  
  Nora Hughes  
  Dale Hollingsworth

Board Members Absent:                   Lena Elliott  
  Dennis Derrieux

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:    Joe Stevens, Director  
  Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
  Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent

Invited Guests:                            Terry Pickens, Mesa County Library Director  
  Gudrun Rice, Mesa County Library Trustee  
  Mark Relph, Public Works  
  Tim Moore, Public Works  
  Greg Trainer, Public Works  
  Kent Harbert, Engineering  
  Trent Prall, Engineering

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

Bob Cron moved to approve the February 28, 2001 minutes. Nora Hughes seconded the motion.

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

### **Item 3: Library Expansion Presentation**

Terry Pickens and Gudrun Rice presented details on the upcoming library expansion. The library has over 60,000 cardholders. In addition to the cardholders, 35,000 people/year are attending library programs. Based on these numbers, it was determined the existing library is being “loved to death”.

The necessity for an expansion was first identified in 1996, in which time a consultant was hired to evaluate the existing space. The result of the study was that the library was “using the space to its maximum capacity.” Afterwards a space-need study was conducted revealing the necessity for a total of 6 acres for the expansion. The library has currently purchased several of the desired properties and continues to raise funds for the purchase of the additional properties.

Preliminary approval has been received from City Council for the closure of Ouray Avenue. Terry stated that the Senior Recreation Center, the Gray Gourmet and the city parking lot were properties the library does “not” intend to purchase for the expansion. She requested assistance in assuring the members of the Senior Recreation Center that their facility is not in danger of being closed.

The new library will be 75,000 square foot and will cost approximately \$14 –15 million. At this time an 18 member Building Advisory Committee has been formed and an architect has been chosen. After reviewing the local surroundings, it was determined the location of the new building will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Grand property. This will allow the library to continue making a vital presence in the downtown area. Permission to issue bonds will be requested from the voters in November 2002.

#### **Item 4: Public Works Transportation Presentation**

Tim Moore reported that the transportation department has focused the last two years the valley’s overall transportation needs. They have identified and proposed a beltway as a solution to many of the problem areas. (See attached “Managing Traffic” report) The beltway will consist of 3-4 lanes around the perimeter of the valley with speeds of 35-40 mph.

A consultant from Denver has been hired to review the beltway plans. Tim stated that although they are still in the early stages of the process, they envision the Las Colonias section of the corridor to be fairly esthetic by providing landscaped medians, etc. He also stated that this would become a very public process down the line. Bob Cron expressed his concern that clarification on the details will need to be reviewed ASAP as this process may have a great impact on other projects that are currently underway.

#### **Item 5: Public Works Storm Water Retention Presentation**

Trent Prall reported on the proposed plans for the storm water retention program. The new regulations and requirements have led to the identification of the necessary reconstruction of 55,000 feet -just under 10 miles. (See attached) The program goals are as follows:

- Eliminate stormwater from the sewer system
- Replace all the water lines with significant break history within the downtown area
- Minimize resident frustration
- Mitigate affected interest concerns

The plans include the following proposed water quality basins / pond locations:

- Las Colonias Park (West side & East side)
- Botanical Gardens

- Jarvis Property
- Riverside
- Sherwood Park

Trent reported that Public Works met recently with Shawn Cooper and Bob Cron to discuss the proposed ponds at Las Colonias Park. During the meeting, they explored the possibility of developing the ponds as “wetlands” with Public Works providing water to the sites when they are dry. This would enhance the appearance of the ponds and would prevent the plants and vegetation from dying during dry seasons. Bob Cron expressed the need to do additional site planning as soon as possible before other projects are impacted. Bob also expressed his concern regarding the Sherwood Park location, stating that neighborhood parks are the “backbone” of the park system. He felt the pond could cause the park to lose its current functionality. Discussion ensued regarding other possibilities, including a recommendation to locate ponds in the center of the future beltway loops.

Although federal funding is not available for this type of project, a low interest loan has been acquired with the stipulation that the project be completed within the next 3 years. Mr. Prall stated the construction is being done by the private sector.

#### **Item 6: Naming City Facilities**

Bernie Goss recommended the board take a slow approach regarding the issue of naming city facilities. Tillie Bishop agreed the board should discuss this issue in further detail and requested the topic be an agenda item for the April 18, 2002 meeting.

#### **Item 7: Other Business**

*WELCOME DALE HOLLINGSWORTH!* Dale Hollingsworth is the newest Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member. Joe Stevens intends to meet with Dale to provide him with background information and take him on a tour of Parks & Recreation sites.

Joe Stevens reported that the new scoreboard infrastructure is currently being installed at the Canyon View Baseball Park. Bernie Goss relayed concern regarding the non-existing sidewalks at the park. Joe responded that there are plans to install sidewalks, however, they were not part of the original restroom construction project.

Tillie Bishop recently spoke to Ann Morgan, Regional BLM Director, regarding the potential property transfer of Little Park Preserve. Tillie stated that he would like to see movement on the transfer as soon as possible. Joe Stevens provided the board with a brief background, stating that the ball is in BLM’s court and outstanding issues include motorized access resolution and maintenance standards.

Mari Steinbach reported that recreation program participation is 3% higher than last year and that revenue is up 13%. (For further details, see attached staff reports)

**Item 8: Adjourn**

Tillie Bishop asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bernie Goss moved and the meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist