

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes October 24, 2002**

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

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss  
Lena Elliott  
Dennis Derrieux  
Bob Cron  
Tom Dixon  
David Detwiler  
Dale Hollingsworth

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director  
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
Larry Manchester, Aquatics Coordinator  
Lynda Lovern, Recreation Supervisor  
Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent  
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner

Invited Guests:

Nancy Langer, Wave Swim Club  
Kris Neil, Wave Swim Club  
Gordon Williams  
Beth Campbell  
Russ Means, Mesa County Jr. Football League  
Denise Faber, Fruita Parks & Recreation

## **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Bob Cron moved to approve the September 19, 2002 and October 11, 2002 minutes.  
Dennis Derrieux seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:      Yes 7      No 0

## **Item 3: Wave Swim Club – Presentation of Plaque**

Mari Steinbach gave a brief background on the history of the swim clubs. Then on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Department, Chairman Goss presented a plaque to Kris Neal and Nancy Langer, of the New Wave Swim Club, in recognition of their recent donation of two lane lines (valued at approximately \$900) at the Orchard Mesa Community Pool.

**Item 4: Mesa County Jr. Football League**

Russ Means, President of Mesa County Jr. Football, reported that his organization has been in preliminary discussions regarding the continued development of Canyon View Park. Currently the football organization has \$50,000 available for infrastructure of the multi-purpose fields. Approximately \$93,000 is needed to complete all four fields, therefore the football organization is trying to raise the additional \$43,000; however Russ Means reported it could take 4 - 5 years to raise the difference. Mr. Means reported that his organization has been in recent contact with the Lions Club as well, stating they have funds available for capital expenditures. Russ Means reported the deadline with the Lions Club is October 31, 2002. An additional source of funding they are exploring is with the NFL, who also has a program for funding capital expenditures. The hopes are that the NFL's program may be able to help with portable goal posts, bleachers, etc.

Bernie Goss responded that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is in the same situation, trying to pull funds together for the continued development of Canyon View Park. Tom Dixon questioned Mr. Means as to what the advantage of having four fields would be. Russ Means replied they have grown to their maximum capacity, with 750 kids currently playing football and approximately 1000+ spectators. With only two fields available now, games are being played on Saturdays and Sundays. Upon completion of the multi-use fields at Canyon View Park, they could get back to playing games on Saturdays only. There have also been numerous requests for an 8 & 9 year old division, which could be considered if the additional fields were available. In addition, the new fields would allow for growth in the organization, should another middle school be built in the future. Russ Means stated that there are plenty of fields available in the community for use as "practice" fields, the current need is for "game" fields.

Mr. Means briefly described the scholarship program offered by Mesa County Jr. Football, who gives approximately 20-25 full and partial scholarships each year. Bob Cron questioned the football association's source of revenue. Russ Means responded that their source of revenue is solely the funds they collect for league registration. Although registrations are the primary source of revenue, they have managed to keep the costs low enough to remain one of the cheapest leagues in the area.

Tom Dixon questioned the effect of the concession contracts Parks & Recreation may currently have in place. Joe Stevens responded that, at this time, there is an exclusive contract in place with Debonair Fun Foods & Concession. Also D.B. Dawg recently contracted with Parks & Recreation to provide concessions during the events that Debonair Fun Foods & Concession has chosen not to operate. This was a concern for Russ Means, stating that the football association presently runs their own concessions, with the funds going towards paying the referees. Joe Stevens responded that the contracts in place should be close to expiration by the time the fields are completed, at which time concession negotiations can be considered.

Bernie Goss requested Tressa Fisher to draft a letter, on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, to Mesa County Jr. Football thanking them for their attendance and for working so diligently to raise funds to help support the multi-purpose fields.

**Item 5: Public Comment – Dog Park Representatives**

Gordon Williams introduced himself, stating he has lived in the Grand Valley for over 28 years and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. He briefly described a recent vacation to Florida where he was referred to a dog park from tourists staying at an RV park. Since then, Mr. Williams has discovered that dog parks are all over the country, originally starting out in California, with 19 of them located in the State of Colorado. However, all of the 19 dog parks in Colorado are currently located on the Eastern Slope.

Mr. Williams distributed informational packets (see attached) and reported that he had met with City Council and the County Council in June, presenting the council members with the informational packets. Gordon Williams stated that, at the time, Mayor Martinez expressed to him her support for a dog park in Grand Junction and encouraged him to present the information to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Joe Stevens and Shawn Cooper. Mr. Williams distributed the information and attended the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting on June 20, 2002.

Beth Campbell continued by saying that since June, a dog park committee has been formed and a passive petition was circulated. The petition was targeted at various veterinarian offices, dog groomers, breeders and etc. In a 6 week period they obtained 677 signatures, stating that they feel there are hundreds of more people who would be willing to sign the petition. Beth Campbell reported there are over 7000 dogs registered in Grand Junction. Mrs. Campbell stated that Ft. Collins population is just over 100,000 people, with 750 – 1000 people visiting the dog park each week.

Mrs. Campbell expressed how simple a dog park would be to build. The basic requirements are a fenced in area, fresh water, both for the dogs and their owners, proper signage and poop bags. Grass is not a necessity, as the dogs would tear it up anyway. She said another benefit of building a dog park is that people will make their own dog park if there isn't an existing one, similar to what is currently occurring at Canyon View Park.

Gordon Williams and Beth Campbell reported that dog parks receive very few complaints, including the potential issues of excessive noise and aggressive dogs. They stated that most owners deal with any issues themselves. In fact, some dog parks have appointed a committee of volunteers who take turns patrolling the dog parks to ensure the areas are remaining clean and safe. The main complaint received is regarding the lack of fresh water. Many dog parks have resolved the water issue by installing gravity fed water fountains, which are used by the dogs and their owners.

Bernie Goss reported that at the June meeting, Chairman Bishop requested a sub-committee be established to explore the dog park issue. Bob Cron was originally on the sub-committee and volunteered again to research the costs involved and potential sites. Tom Dixon questioned if the dog park committee has explored the private sector for a park? Gordon Williams responded that they have not explored the private sector, hoping the City would be willing to help since Western Slope is the only area in Colorado that doesn't currently have a dog park. Mr. Williams suggested the piece of property north of Canyon View Park as a potential site, stating that the area is currently unused and would be perfect for local residents, as well as for tourists since it is located right off the highway. Discussion ensued regarding the Board's opinion of Canyon View Park as a potential site. Bernie Goss reported that he was aware of some dog parks being closed

due to problems. Lena Elliott expressed her concerns regarding the costs involved and did not feel there was enough information presented for any decisions to be made. Chairman Goss requested Bob Cron pursue additional information, including possible locations, and report back at a future Board meeting. Bernie Goss thanked the guests for their input and presentation.

#### **Item 6: Canyon View Park Update**

Joe Stevens reported that members of City Council have expressed some concern with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's reasoning behind transferring funds from other projects to Canyon View Park. The perception is that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board may end up short-changing the neighborhoods. Previously the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board suggested the meeting with City Council be held as soon as possible for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members to provide Council members with justification as to why the Board has decided to do what they are doing. Discussion ensued. Bernie Goss requested a breakfast meeting be scheduled with City Council and will call Stephanie Tuin, City Clerk, to set up the meeting. It was decided that if a breakfast or lunch meeting cannot be arranged before the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting, City Council will be invited and the agenda will be for Canyon View Park discussions.

Joe Stevens also reported that an invitation from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has been received to submit a concept paper for a \$500,000 grant. This would be in addition to the \$150,000 Legacy Grant that was applied for earlier in the year. It will be important in this grant application to convince GOCO that Canyon View Park has 1) a regional significance and 2) strong partnerships. Bob Cron reported that the decision date for the Legacy Grant application has been moved back to December 4, 2002.

Joe Stevens also reported that during his attendance at a national conference in Tampa earlier this month, he received a compliment from a person who had visited Canyon View Park from the state of Oregon.

#### **Item 7: Correspondence**

Bernie Goss briefly reviewed the letter to Nora Hughes with the Board. (See attached)

Joe Stevens mentioned the national publication on Two Rivers Convention Center. (See attached) Lena Elliott stated that she would like it to see the article be placed in the Daily Sentinel. Lena Elliott asked Joe Stevens to follow-up with the Daily Sentinel.

#### **Item 8: Other Business**

Bob Cron provided an update regarding the Citizens Committee for the Bypass on Highway 50. Last spring an open house was held where the contractor and the staff presented an alternative of going under railroad and the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Many did not like this alternative so other options were presented and discussed. Decision was made to run the bypass over the railroad and over Highway 50 at approximately Nolan Avenue. This proposal will be presented to City Council. The first section that will be built is from Broadway to 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Mr. Cron also reported on a trip he recently took to Glenwood Springs, where he visited the new Recreation Center. The facility consists of a large gymnasium, two short basketball courts (or 1 large one), racquetball courts, a weight/workout area, an aerobic room, meeting rooms, etc. The plans are to expand with the next phase including a swimming pool and an area for the performing arts. The Recreation Center is basically a fee facility. Bob Cron questioned the facility manager on the direct competition with the private sector. The response was that Glenwood Springs has a different scenario than Grand Junction, due to the athletic clubs in Glenwood having membership waiting lists. The manager reported that approximately 1000 - 2000 different people per month are currently using the new Recreation Center.

**Item 9: Adjourn**

Bernie Goss asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Dixon moved and Dennis Derrieux seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist