

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes November 21, 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

Staff Present:

Kelly Arnold, City Manager
Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner

Invited Guests:

Mayor Cindy Enos-Martinez, City Council
Bill McCurry, City Council
Jim Spehar, City Council
Dennis Kirtland, City Council
Reford Theobald, City Council
Harry Butler, City Council
Janet Terry, City Council

Guest:

Bruce Hill, Superior Alarm

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bob Cron requested an amendment to the last sentence on page 5 of the October 24, 2002 minutes. The sentence will be revised to read as follows: The manager reported that approximately 1000 - 2000 different people per month are currently using the new Recreation Center. Also, David Detwiler pointed out a date correction on the agenda; the correct date for the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting is December 19, 2002. Bob Cron moved to approve the October 24, 2002 minutes as amended. Tom Dixon seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: “Best of the West” Award

Bernie Goss reported on the “Best of the West” awards received from the Daily Sentinel. The winners are determined by Daily Sentinel readers who vote on their local favorites for shopping, dining, entertainment, services, etc. Parks won the “Best of the West” for Best Use of Local Tax Dollars. Joe Stevens added that Tiara Rado golf course won 1st place for Best Value in Golf and

Best Golf Course. Pinon Grill won Best Breakfast Place (Daily Sentinel staff pick) and Two Rivers Convention Center also won a dubious award in “Best of the West”.

Item 4 : Canyon View Park Development Discussion

Bernie Goss reported that per City Council’s request in October, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has been reviewing alternative options for the continued development of Canyon View Park. He continued by stating that the Board has had numerous discussions and spent a large amount of time on the issues involved. Chairman Goss briefly explained the Board’s categorizing of the 3 different types of City parks; 1) Spectator parks, such as Lincoln Park 2) Participatory parks, such as Canyon View Park and 3) Neighborhood parks, such as Darla Jean Park. Mr. Goss distributed a handout (see attached) which illustrates the Board’s various “points of discussion” that took place prior to making a final recommendation to City Council. The meeting was then opened for comments from each individual Board member.

Bob Cron started by sharing his concern with Parks & Recreation falling short in developing and improving neighborhood parks due to the rapid growth of the community. He expressed he has mixed feelings, however he continued by saying that it was time to get Canyon View Park done in order to start playing catch-up with neighborhood parks. Mr. Cron stated “if we are going to do Canyon View Park , let’s get it done and do it right. I don’t want to come back to it. ”

Tom Dixon talked about one of his initial interests being the 24 Road corridor which hasn’t been developed except for the Canyon View Park development. Mr. Dixon stated that by allowing new groups the use of Canyon View Park, such as junior football and tennis groups, the city has an even greater opportunity for capturing potential tax dollars. Tom Dixon reported that junior football is currently being played in Fruita, which in turn creates tax dollars being spent in Fruita. Canyon View Park is centrally located, therefore, the entire valley would benefit from its future development. Mr. Dixon also echoed Bob Cron’s concern with neighborhood parks, however, he stated he felt much more comfortable with continuing the development of Canyon View Park once he was informed of how much funding has been spent on improvements at Darla Jean and Paradise Hills Parks over the past few years.

Bernie Goss briefly reported on the October 24, 2002 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting in which Russ Means from the Mesa County Jr. Football Association attended. Mr. Means had reported that nearly 750 children are currently playing in the league with the anticipation the number of players will increase significantly over the next 4 – 5 years. At this time, the football league has committed to donate \$50,000 towards the development of Canyon View Park and continues to work with other organizations in hopes of raising additional funds to contribute.

Joe Stevens provided an update on the 3 grants pending from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Unfortunately, the preliminary decision on the Legacy Grant, which did not directly relate to Canyon View Park but does affect all of the funding strategies for park development, is that it will not be funded. Bob Cron elaborated by saying the entire GOCO Board was present for the preliminary meeting, with the final decision scheduled for validation at their December 4, 2002 meeting. Mr. Cron reported that of the \$30 million available, \$22 million went to the 6 state projects. In the end 10 out of 15 projects will be funded, with 3 projects being left completely unfunded. Based on this information, it appears the GOCO Board is becoming more concerned with the funding of state wide projects. Janet Terry questioned how GOCO addressed the

constitutional provision that allocations cannot be in one pot. Bob Cron responded that he was told by staff that it is legal for them to allocate open space and local community quadrant funds to Division of Wildlife and State Parks to accomplish open space objectives and local community efforts. Discussion ensued regarding GOCO's decision. Bob Cron also reported that he plans to continue as the Greenway Coordinator for another year. Joe Stevens continued by stating a decision should be made in mid-December on the \$150,000 grant that is connected to the Canyon View Park project. Also, in March of 2003, a decision should be reached on a \$500,000 mid-range grant intended for the installation of the splash ground at Canyon View Park.

Dale Hollingsworth began by thanking City Council for attending today's meeting. He explained that four of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members have been on the board for less than 3 months. Mr. Hollingsworth stated the new members have dedicated a large amount of time on Canyon View Park and feels they are completely up-to-date with the rest of the Board members. He stated he is very proud of Canyon View Park, along with most of the citizens and visitors in Grand Junction, therefore, is 100 % supportive of the project and wants to see it finished.

David Detwiler reported that the market right now for sub-contractors is good and that it would be to the city's advantage to put the project out for bid soon, while prices are low. Mr. Detwiler expressed the importance of getting as much "bang for the buck" as possible.

Joe Stevens requested that a correction be made to his statement earlier in the week regarding Cochran Wash. The \$1.7 million cost scenario does "not" include the piping of Cochran Wash. He suggested that the piping be added as it would be more cost effective to include it in this phase.

Bernie Goss brought up the possibility of transferring funds from the proposed restrooms at Columbine Park. Chairman Goss stated there would not be a real urgency for the new restrooms if the restrooms in the softball complex were changed to allow secure access for park visitors. Joe Stevens reported on the "various cost options" in the handout (see attached) that allows for modification of the various prices. Shawn Cooper explained the various cost options in more detail, as well as the increase in costs that would be involved if the project was delayed for 4 years. Discussion ensued.

Jim Spehar talked about the concern City Council has regarding neighborhood park improvements being deferred for the continuation of Canyon View Park, stating that the master plan study indicated that neighborhood parks were at the same level of importance, in the public's mind, as the completion of Canyon View Park. Lena Elliott responded that neighborhood parks have been paid attention to and that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has not received any complaints about what has or has not been done. She expressed that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has been and will continue to be concerned about neighborhood parks, yet feels the decisions have remained fair. Jim Spehar replied that City Council's intentions are to find the appropriate balance between the two.

Janet Terry agreed that the ultimate goal was to find an appropriate balance. She stated she was thrilled to see all of the improvements that have been made to Darla Jean Park in recent years. However, she felt that the improvements at Paradise Hills Park were long overdue. Mrs. Terry

made her recommendation which would move forward with Canyon View Park and still include the Paradise Hills Park improvements. Dennis Kirtland stated he felt it is good timing to move forward with Canyon View Park due to construction costs. Mr. Kirtland agreed that finding a balance was the concern and expressed that additional funding may come available down the line to complete some of the neighborhood park projects. Discussion ensued.

Councilman Spehar also mentioned his concern with removing tennis courts from Lincoln Park. Janet Terry replied that she does not support eliminating the funds for the resurfacing permanently, but she does support shifting the funds temporarily. Lena Elliott suggested there may be a possibility there won't be a need/want for 8 courts at Lincoln Park once the full 12 courts are completed at Canyon View Park. She stated it was not the intent of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to make the decision to remove the courts at this time.

Reford Theobald stated although he was uncomfortable with the deferring of several of the projects, including trail construction and park land acquisitions, he agreed it is good timing to move forward with further development of Canyon View Park.

Discussion ensued regarding the bidding process and details. The recommendation was made to send the entire \$1.7 million project out for bid and deduct areas in the future if necessary. Harry Butler agreed with the recommendation stating that he likes the \$1.7 million scenario, hoping to get the project completed and over with. Dennis Kirtland also agreed to send the \$1.7 million cost scenario out to bid. Janet Terry agreed as long as the Lincoln Park Master Plan and the improvements at Paradise Hills are still completed. Reford Theobald agreed to delaying his areas of concern in order to complete this phase of Canyon View Park. Mayor Cindy Enos-Martinez also supported bidding for the \$1.7 million version.

The final decision was for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to move forward with the bidding process on the \$1.7 million cost option and to return to City Council once the final numbers have been received.

Kelly Arnold mentioned that there remains a need for a junior field in the park plan. Mr. Arnold also requested clarification regarding the use of the \$85,000 CIP sales tax fund. Reford Theobald suggested using \$40,000 of the \$85,000 contingency versus the entire amount.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board thanked the City Council for attending the meeting.

Item 5: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist