

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes September 20, 2001

Item 1 Called to Order by Chairman Tillie Bishop at 11:50 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Tillie Bishop
 Bob Cron
 Lena Elliott
 Bernie Goss
 Nora Hughes
 R.T. Mantlo
 Dennis Derreix

City Council Members Present: Harry Butler

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
 Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
 Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
 Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
 Tracy Constable, Administrative Specialist

Item 1 Approve Minutes

Tillie suggested changing “being” to “to” in the second paragraph of item 4 and adding “Parks” to Board in paragraph two of Item 5. Bob moved to approve the August 23, 2001 minutes as amended. Lena seconded the motion.

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

Item 2 Move CIP Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board decided to move the Capital Improvement Program Discussion to September 24, 2001 at 11:30 am.

Item 3 Two Rivers Fees, Charges, and General Policies review and discussion

Bruce Hill explained his concerns over adding several extra fees along with raising fees that could possibly cause the local service clubs to take their business elsewhere, making Two Rivers Convention Center an untouchable facility. Bruce also expressed his apprehension over the proposed extra room charge. He feels if a group has a meal with their meeting there should be

no extra charge for rental of the room. That fee should only be assessed if there are no meals purchased.

Joe explained that with the accelerated costs of upkeep, recent expansion and hiring a Convention Center Manager (division head position), the City of Grand Junction will still be subsidizing Two Rivers Convention Center by \$225,000. Joe asked the Parks Board for their thoughts and what they felt would be a fair percentage or dollar figure for the City to underwrite operational costs at Two Rivers.

Lena questioned which direction the Council would like to see the Convention Center go. Is it to become a Community Center and take care of all local organizations first, then pursue other facets, or become a Convention Center and market outside organizations for bigger conventions, shows, etc?

Tillie suggested the Board get more information from City Council before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board moves on a decision.

Bruce feels the Parks and Recreation Department should meet with local users of Two Rivers Convention Center to see what they are willing to pay to use the facility again. R.T. expressed the need to get the approved fees and charges to these user groups as soon as possible, so the City can get a better idea of how many actual users they can plan for in 2002. Tillie suggested a presentation be assembled by the Parks Department to explain in detail what these groups will be receiving when renting and using the renovated Two Rivers Convention Center.

The idea of phasing in the new fee schedule over three years was proposed by Dennis. He felt it would be easier for user groups to manage a slow fee schedule, rather than one drastic increase. Tillie agreed the City waited too long to raise fees, but as Joe pointed out the subsidy level will radically increase for the City if the fees and charges are phased in.

Lena expressed the need to simplify the invoices. Instead of itemizing invoices, she suggested simply charge per meal, per person, etc.

Bernie moved that Joe refer the proposed Fees, Charges, and General Policies worksheet, as is, to City Council, with the understanding that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like to see the fee schedule phased in over three years period. R.T. seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 6 yes 1 no

Joe asked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to recommend policies for display storage at Two Rivers. The Board was in agreement that all permanent displays be removed and display space, should it be available, be leased. This would make Two Rivers a neutral meeting place for all organizations.

Item 4 Art Center Expansion Update

Dan Patton started by explaining to the Board that the Art Center is looking for support from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to take the Art Center Project to the next level, through negotiating a time frame to explore the possibility of building a new center in the Los Colonias Park. The estimated cost of the 34,000-sq. ft. building is \$4.5 million.

Ken Hunt gave a brief overview of the building plans and site, showing drawings of both. Ken explained the Los Colonias Park site would be the best location and setting for the Art Center. The combination of a park and the Art Center would benefit both entities by bringing a user base to that area.

Bob expressed his concern with the Parks Board giving the Art Center moral support at this time because the Los Colonias Park is not a high priority project for the City of Grand Junction, and could be more than ten years before the park is developed. Joe explained the Art Center is more than welcome to begin their project, knowing the infrastructure would not be part of the City's contribution in the foreseeable future. Ken pointed out the Art Center and the Los Colonias Park projects would not necessarily need to be constructed at the same time, but it is not in the Art Center's budget to install infrastructure for the project. Lena also reiterated the fact that the Art Center project is a wonderful venture, but it isn't the only planned project in conjunction with City property, which makes it a difficult to put this project in front of others.

Dan stated the Art Center has public support to build at Los Colonias Park. The Art Center and the Park would be a natural partnership, but the Art Center can not take on the entire project. If it is necessary to wait ten years, it will not be the same project, and possibly could be built at another site.

Bob moved that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board supports the concept of the Art Center's proposal. The Board feels the project will be a great fit for Los Colonias Park and plan to continue the dialog with the Art Center to keep open any options the groups may have. R.T. seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 7 yes 0 no

Item 7 Adjourn

Bernie Goss moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Cron seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 7 yes 0 no

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Constable

Administrative Specialist