

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

July 15, 2004

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss 12:10 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Dennis Derrieux
Lenna Watson
Reford Theobald
Bob Cron
David Detwiler
Tom Dixon
Cindy Enos-Martinez (Ex-Officio)

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent

Guests:

Sam Szymnaski, Communications & Community
Relations Coordinator
Sheryl Trent, Assistant to City Manager

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bob Cron moved to approve the June 17, 2004 minutes. Lenna Watson seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Election of Officers

Joe Stevens stated it was time for the annual election of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board officers. Mr. Stevens opened the floor for nominations. Cindy Enos-Martinez asked about the term limits and whether or not the elected officers can serve several terms. Joe Stevens responded that there are not any specific term limits for the Chair or Vice-Chair positions. Dave Detwiler nominated Bernie Goss as Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Bob Cron seconded the motion. There were no other nominations for Chair and nominations were closed.

Bernie Goss was unanimously elected Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Joe Stevens opened the floor for Vice-Chair nominations. Dave Detwiler nominated Reford Theobold. Bernie Goss nominated Dennis Derrieux. Joe Stevens requested seconds. Tom Dixon seconded the nomination for Dennis Derrieux. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair and nominations were closed.

Dennis Derrieux was unanimously elected Vice-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Item 4: Preview NRPA Gold Medal Award Video Presentation

Joe Stevens provided a brief overview of the NRPA Gold Medal Award video. Mari Steinbach thanked the Board members and the video committee for their involvement with the video's production. The video was viewed in its entirety. Joe Stevens stated the winner will be announced at the NRPA Conference in Reno, Nevada on Wednesday, October 13, 2004.

Item 5: Observation/Comments on Park Tour

Bernie Goss opened the floor for comments and/or concerns regarding the morning's park tour. Lenna Watson stated that, as a new Board member, she felt the tour was excellent. Lenna Watson thanked the staff for the tour, stating she found it very beneficial. Bob Cron questioned the \$25,000 proposed for improvements at Duck Pond Park. Joe Stevens responded that the \$25,000 is left over from the CDBG block grant program from recent improvements. Mr. Stevens was recently asked where the funds could be best utilized, knowing the CDBG grant has specific requirements. Sheryl Trent, Assistant to the City Manager, will work with the Department and neighborhood to determine appropriate improvements.

Bob Cron asked whether there were any other land acquisitions planned for the near future. Joe Stevens responded an area being researched, at this time, is the Pear Park area. Bob Cron expressed his concern regarding the Board's inability to "get a head" with regards to neighborhood parks. Mr. Cron discussed the importance of the City purchasing neighborhood park sites, as much as possible, in order to remain ahead of the rapid development.

Item 6: Lincoln Park Master Plan Update

Joe Stevens reported the Parks & Recreation Department has scheduled several meetings to discuss the Lincoln Park Master Plan. The meeting with the consultants is scheduled for 4 p.m. on July 21, 2004 at Two Rivers Convention Center. The stakeholder's meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on July 21, 2004, in the Lincoln Park Barn. (The stakeholder's meeting will include the organized groups who currently utilize the park's facilities.) There will also be a public open house, which is scheduled at 7 p.m. on July 22, 2004, at the Lincoln Park Barn.

Tom Dixon questioned the status of the V.A. Hospital's property and how it relates to the Lincoln Park Master Plan. Reford Theobold discussed a recent article regarding the City's use of the golf course property. The article stated that if the City ever decides to discontinue using the property for "golf", the land will revert back to the V.A. Hospital. Mr. Theobold stated the information is incorrect, as the agreement states the land reverts back to the V.A. Hospital should

the City decide to discontinue using the land for “park” use. Reford Theobald also stated the agreement has a 2006 expiration date.

David Detwiler reported on a recent meeting he had with Jim Davis, who currently hosts the “Sports Stop” radio talk show (station 1340 AM). During the meeting, Mr. Davis expressed his desire to discuss the Lincoln Park Master Plan topic, asking listeners to call in and answer the question “What would you do with Lincoln Park if you were king for a day?” The talk show will air live from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. on the morning of July 22, 2004. The Board agreed the talk show was a good opportunity to receive public feedback. Tom Dixon and David Detwiler volunteered to assist with the talk show. Bob Cron expressed the importance of the Board members focusing on the fact that our community is currently “loving the park to death”, therefore, it is essential we move forward with a master plan.

Item 7: Wingate Park Development Update

Joe Stevens reported the development of Wingate Park is progressing. Mr. Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation Department has been asked to delay planting until spring, in order to have a source of water. Mr. Stevens stated the Design Build Team has been working diligently to remain within the tight budget, and unfortunately, there are not enough funds to complete the proposed climbing wall. Cindy Enos-Martinez questioned whether or not the remaining CDBG grant funds could be used towards the climbing wall, stating that the area might meet federal requirements, due to many of the Wingate Elementary School children being on the reduced/free lunch program. Sheryl Trent stated she would research the possibility of using the CDBG grant funds towards the Wingate Park climbing wall.

Item 8: Canyon View Park East Update

The morning’s tour included a stop at the Canyon View Park East site. The Board members briefly discussed the large amount of dogs at the park that were not on a leash and the growing potential for conflict.

Joe Stevens asked when the Board would like to host the dedication of Canyon View Park East. Don Hobbs and Mari Steinbach recently met with the Mesa County Jr. Football Association to discuss the dedication and the possibility of an exhibition football game. Don Hobbs reported the opening of the Association’s regular football season is scheduled to begin the weekend of August 28, 2004. The games normally begin around 8 a.m. and go to approximately 6 p.m., averaging 12 games per day. Several dates were discussed as options for the dedication. The condition of the fields and attendance concerns were also discussed. Bob Cron expressed his objection to hosting the dedication “after” the season, stating he would prefer August 21, 2004, in order for the dedication to take place “before” the season starts. Mari Steinbach stated a drawback to scheduling the dedication early in the season is that it might appear to the public that the new fields are now playable, which could attract additional field use. Currently the Mesa County Jr. Football Association playoff games, scheduled for October 2004, are the only games scheduled for play on the new fields. The Football Association has assured the Parks & Recreation Department they can control their players and keep them off the new fields prior to the playoffs, allowing the fields more time to mature.

Lenna Watson moved that the dedication be held on the morning of October 16, 2004. Tom Dixon seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 1 (Bob Cron)

Bob Cron questioned the status of the Arcieri Family dedication. Joe Stevens responded the Parks & Recreation Department is currently working on the memorial and that recognition will take place the same day and time as the Canyon View Park East dedication ceremony.

Item 9: Correspondence:

Joe Stevens briefly discussed issues regarding maintenance and upkeep of Crown Point Cemetery, referring to the memo in the July Parks & Recreation Advisory Board packet. Mr. Stevens stated the biggest obstacle for the cemetery staff is the fact that the City does not own any water rights, making it virtually impossible to maintain the grounds at the same level as a typical blue grass facility. Bob Cron questioned if the site is located within Persigo's boundaries. Joe Stevens responded the cemetery is located outside of Persigo limits.

Item 10: Other Business

Joe Stevens asked Tressa Fisher to report on the new on-line registration system. Tressa Fisher stated that, at this time, over 530 people have registered through FunnLinkExpress. Mrs. Fisher stated the system is running very smoothly and staff has been receiving positive feedback from the customers. David Detwiler stated he had recently processed a registration through the new on-line system and felt it was very user friendly.

Reford Theobold reported the Bookcliff Middle School grant came through. The \$500 grant will be used towards improvements at Lilac Park. Mr. Theobold intends to work with Shawn Cooper on developing the plans and will begin implementation once the school year begins.

Reford Theobold expressed his concern that the Mesa Youth program may be cutting back to once a year or may even have to dissolve, due to the recent announcement that Paula Muncy is leaving Grand Junction. Mrs. Muncy's husband recently accepted a job in the Boulder area. Mr. Theobold stated Mrs. Muncy's departure will be a tremendous loss as she is a very talented lady who makes the entire program come together. Mari Steinbach responded that Paula Muncy has provided the Parks & Recreation Department with a list of individuals whom she feels might be willing and able to run the program. Lenna Watson stated she might also know of someone who would be interested in assisting with the program.

Lenna Watson reported she is leaving the Riverfront Commission, however, wanted to relay information regarding the newly implemented "Adopt a Trail" program. Mrs. Watson stated if the Board members are interested, or if they know anyone who is interested, in adopting a trail, she encourages them to call the Riverfront Commission.

Dennis Derrieux showed the Board a picture of the turtle sculpture that was selected for Wingate Park. Shawn Cooper reported that, at this time, a couple different locations are being reviewed.

Joe Stevens stated the final recommendation is scheduled to go to City Council for approval next Wednesday, July 21, 2004.

Bernie Goss questioned if the Board felt it was necessary to have a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting during the month of August. The Board agreed an August meeting was necessary, and plan to meet as scheduled.

Item 11: Adjourn

Chairman Goss asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lenna Watson moved and Dennis Derrieux seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist