

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Parks
Improvement Advisory Board Joint Meeting
July 21, 2004**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 4:16 p.m.

Roll Call

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Bob Cron
Tom Dixon
David Detwiler
Reford Theobold

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Members Absent:

Lenna Watson
Dennis Derrieux

Parks Improvement Advisory Board

Members Present:

Dan Cummings
Tillie Bishop
Jamie Hamilton
Cindy Enos-Martinez
Sue Gormely
Andy Rodriguez
Steve Phillips

Parks Improvement Advisory Board

Members Absent:

Lou Grasso

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner

Guests Present:

Rick Phelps, Phelps Golf
Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates
Andy Barnard, Sink, Combs, Dethlefs
Erik VanDeBoogaard, MSC Facilities Director
Ted Ciavonne, Ciavonne, Roberts Associates

Item 2: Lincoln Park Master Plan

Bernie Goss stated the purpose of the meeting was to review the Lincoln Park Master Plan with the consultants. The consultant team, consisting of Ted Ciavonne, Ciavonne, Roberts Associates, Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates, Andy Barnard, Sink, Combs, Dethlefs, and Rick Phelps, Phelps Golf introduced themselves. Ted Ciavonne began by distributing handouts and a questionnaire (See attached). Paul Kuhn reported the consultants have completed the site analysis portion of the project, which included observing the 2004 JUCO operations. In addition, the consultants met with members of the Parks staff, obtaining a thorough summary (11 pages) of park issues. Currently the consultant team is working to obtain visionary input from the public, including people interested in the park, the facility users, stakeholders, etc. Two meetings have been scheduled to provide an opportunity for public feedback; a stakeholder's meeting has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, and a public open house has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2004. Upon completion of the public meetings, the consultants will combine the input, costs, priorities, etc. to make recommendations and develop alternatives for improving the park.

Paul Kuhn continued by discussing the results of the Lincoln Park Study. Mr. Kuhn stated that the park is very heavily used and currently, a large portion of the park is devoted to golf, leaving only the West 1/3 of the park for all of the other uses (pool, stadium, practice areas, general park uses, etc.). Mr. Kuhn reported the transportation consultant recently reviewed the access issues, and identified numerous issues/conflicts related to traffic and pedestrian movement throughout the park. Mr. Kuhn reviewed a list of possible improvements (See attached). Another major concern is that the parking lot needs upgrading, as it does not meet City code. The necessary upgrade would cause a loss of approximately 10% of the parking. Mr. Kuhn stated other concerns with Lincoln Park include the lack of modern aquatic facilities, the location of the tennis courts and horseshoe pits (in relation to the restrooms, drinking fountains and shade), the location of the maintenance facility and the requested improvements to the stadium.

Rick Phelps, the golf course architect, discussed the main issues with the golf course. Mr. Phelps stated the course plays backwards (counterclockwise), which creates unnecessary conflicts and safety problems. In addition, the entire irrigation system needs replaced. The estimated cost to replace the irrigation system is in the \$750,000 - \$800,000 range. Rick Phelps stated the course has routing and driving range issues as well; with the course running East – West, it requires the golfers to face the sun when practicing. Mr. Phelps stated the driving range is currently about 50 yards too short and if redesigned, there are a number of adjacency issues that would need to be addressed, due to the fact they do not meet today's guidelines for golf design. Rick Phelps stated the golf course currently consists of approximately 64 acres, including the club house. Mr. Phelps discussed three possible options for maintaining golf in Lincoln Park while freeing up additional land for other park uses. 1) Turning the course into an "executive" golf course (par 31), creating approximately 8 acres of free space. This option consists of using the existing club house and driving range. 2) Turning the course into a par 3, 9-hole golf course, creating approximately 17 acres of free space. This option includes moving the club house and rebuilding the driving range in a North – South position, eliminating numerous safety issues as well as adjacency issues to property lines. 3) Turning the golf course into a "learning center", creating approximately 30 acres of free space on the West side of the park. This option would require a new club house and would leave room for a full size driving range, a short game practice facility, and 3 - 5 hole teaching holes. This option also provides the ability to add enough extra teeing grounds to create a 9-hole "chip and put" course alongside the training course.

Paul Kuhn discussed the issues surrounding the Parks maintenance facility. In its present location, City vehicles lose windshields due to stray golf balls. In addition, it is difficult to get the equipment in and out of the park, causing conflicts with the golfers. Improvement options include 1) Expanding the facility at the same location with access improvements, 2) Relocating the maintenance facility to the East end of golf course (if the golf course were modified), 3) Move the facility to the East side of the stadium, which would require track and field changes, or 4) Move the facility to a completely different site and perhaps develop several small maintenance facilities rather than one central location. David Detwiler asked Don Hobbs where the ideal location is for the maintenance facility. Don Hobbs responded that the swimming pool, tennis courts, stadium and golf course are high maintenance facilities; therefore, the Lincoln Park location works well providing easy access. Mr. Hobbs also stated the golf and stadium have a large amount of equipment that is not very cost effective to move back and forth, so there will always be a need for some type of maintenance facility in Lincoln Park.

Ted Ciavonne stated that Lincoln Park is currently being “loved to death” and the demand already exists for expansion of its current facilities. Shawn Cooper stated the original goal of the Lincoln Park Study is to serve the community 20-50 years from now.

Andy Rodriquez asked if it was a possibility to relocate some of the services in the park. Cindy Enos-Martinez said it would be very difficult to move any of the park’s facilities, as the park is in a central location and the community likes it as is. David Detwiler asked what the college’s goals are in the near future and if they plan on building their own stadium. Eric VanDeBoogaard, MSC Facilities Director, stated that a football stadium is not currently in their long range master plan. Tillie Bishop suggested the possibility of partnering with the upcoming event center, and relocating some of the park activities there (swimming pool, tennis courts, etc.). Bob Cron asked School District #51 what their future plans were regarding recreation facilities. Steve Phillips responded that their short time goal is to obtain a bond issue in order to build more schools. Mr. Phillips stated the School District is happy with the City’s current facilities and intends to continue hosting their activities at the City facilities. Steve Phillips stated they have a high interest in the Lincoln Park Master Plan and that currently, their only issue is the needed improvement of turf maintenance on the football fields. Reford Theobold discussed the importance of having a master plan in place, as it will ensure that the changes made will coincide with the plans for the entire park versus making changes that will end up conflicting with the long term master plan. (Example: Completing the post tension tennis courts then having to relocate the tennis courts later on.) Reford Theobold suggested the possibility of locating offices and/or maintenance facilities under the bleachers in order to use the park space more efficiently.

A brief discussion took place regarding the possibility of moving the swimming pool. Joe Stevens stated that, regardless of the leak, the pool has many years left in it. Mr. Stevens said the pool is in a good central location and if anything, the community needs more swimming pools and perhaps more aquatic amenities with the Lincoln Park-Moyer Swimming Pool.

Joe Stevens reported golf rounds are down, not only for City golf courses, but other courses too. Mr. Stevens stated the same number of rounds are being played, but they are now dispersed over numerous golf courses. This appears to be a nationwide trend. Joe Stevens said the Lincoln Park Golf Course may not be as viable as an enterprise operation, should the current trend

continue. Rick Phelps stated changing the golf course might decrease the rounds approximately 10-15%; however, the maintenance costs would also decrease. Mr. Phelps said Lincoln Park Golf Course is not a challenging or exciting golf course compared to the competition. Dan Cummings stated he has read that par 3 golf courses generally have higher usage, while allowing for more programs on a smaller course.

Chairman Goss left the meeting at 5:15 p.m., requesting Bob Cron to chair the duration of the meeting.

Reford Theobold discussed the potential for internal traffic problems if any type of roadway was located within the park. Mr. Theobold expressed concern that the road would allow people to avoid the stop light at 12th Street and Gunnison Avenue by cutting through the park. Don Hobbs said that the majority of the people who are currently cutting through the park are teenagers wanting to drive by the swimming pool.

The consultant team thanked the Board members for their input and requested they complete the Lincoln Park Study questionnaires and return them to the Parks & Recreation administrative office.

David Detwiler reminded the Board members to listen to the Sports Talk Show regarding the Lincoln Park Master Plan on July 22, 2004, from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. (Station 1340 AM).

Item 3: Adjourn

Bob Cron asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Detwiler moved and Reford Theobold seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist