

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes August 19, 2004

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Dennis Derrieux
Lenna Watson
Reford Theobald
Bob Cron
Tom Dixon

Board Members Absent:

Cindy Enos-Martinez (Ex-Officio)
David Detwiler

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Tina Ross, Aquatics Coordinator

Guests:

Mayor Bruce Hill
Dale Hollingsworth
Steve Phillips, Athletic Director, School District #51
Lisa Truong, City Youth Council

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Tom Dixon moved to approve the July 15, 2004 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes and the July 21, 2004 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Parks Improvement Advisory Board joint meeting minutes. Bob Cron seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 3: Introduction of Steve Phillips, Athletic Director, School District #51

Chairman Goss introduced guest, Steve Phillips, who is the new Athletic Director for School District #51. Mr. Phillips thanked the Board for the invitation, stating he is looking forward to the opportunity and that he plans to work closely with the City and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Item 4: Recognition of Dale Hollingsworth, Former Member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Bernie Goss presented Dale Hollingsworth with a recognition plaque, thanking him for his years of dedication to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Dale Hollingsworth said he has seen a lot of changes since he came to Grand Junction in 1957 (when Lincoln Park had a zoo, the original Moyer pool was in use, and the stadium had wooden stands). Mr. Hollingsworth discussed the importance of the Lincoln Park study, stating something has to be done as there are currently too many activities being held in too small of an area. Dale Hollingsworth stated he is very proud of the Parks & Recreation Department and, although it is an on-going process, he is not leaving with any agenda that hasn't been accomplished. Mr. Hollingsworth thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and improve the community. Mayor Bruce Hill personally thanked Dale Hollingsworth for all of his hard work and dedication. Mayor Hill said Dale Hollingsworth has been a true asset to the community, serving in a leadership capacity since the very beginning. Bruce Hill stated that Mr. Hollingsworth has been involved with numerous projects over the years, including Operation Foresight and JUCO, yet has always been the first to shy away from recognition. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board wishes Dale Hollingsworth the best of luck with his future endeavors.

Item 5: Opening of 17th Green at Tiara Rado Golf Course

Joe Stevens reported the opening ceremony of the 17th green is at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 20, 2004. A brief ceremony will take place on the 17th green at Tiara Rado Golf Course. Golf carts will be available at the clubhouse. Mr. Stevens stated Mayor Hill, along with City Council members, will be in attendance. Joe Stevens stated this is an exciting occasion for the golf course, as the green has now been expanded from approximately 2,000 square feet to just under 6,000 square feet.

Item 6: Park Updates

Shawn Cooper provided updates on the status of various park projects. Mr. Cooper began talking about the Lincoln Park Master Plan, stating the consultants are currently working on four different concepts, derived from the recent neighborhood and stakeholder meetings. The consultants plan to present the concepts at the September 13, 2004 City Council meeting, in order to request feedback and direction from the Council members. Mr. Cooper stated the concepts all vary, ranging from minimal changes to possibly altering the entire park. Joe Stevens stated the key areas for discussion will focus around there being too many activities in a confined area. Mr. Stevens said he has had some of the user groups mention they do not object to downsizing or possibly relocating their activities, if necessary, to coincide with the park's master plan. Joe Stevens said that overall; the Parks & Recreation Department has received really good feedback. Shawn Cooper stated the consultants will present the concepts to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board after the September City Council meeting and will most likely schedule additional public meetings sometime in October. The entire plan is scheduled to be completed by February 2005.

Mr. Cooper reported the earthwork is complete at Wingate Park, and the main water line should be complete by the end of the week. Unfortunately, the GOCO grant was unsuccessful, so the restrooms and the shelter will not be included in the plan. Shawn Cooper stated the seeding is scheduled to take place the middle of September and the turf grasses and native grasses will be planted this fall. The trees and shrubs will be planted next spring. Bob Cron asked if Sheryl Trent

had determined if the \$25,000 CDBG grant money can be used towards the climbing wall at Wingate Park. Joe Stevens said it appears using the money at Wingate Park may not be a possibility; however, Sheryl Trent is still researching the option. Lenna Watson asked if the climbing wall would increase the City's liability. Shawn Cooper responded the climbing wall should not increase liability, as it is a bouldering wall approximately 8 feet tall and is designed for the kids to climb horizontally more than vertically.

Shawn Cooper reported the shelter for Paradise Hills Park has been purchased. The concrete trail is currently being designed and will go out to bid in the near future.

Shawn Cooper stated the Pine Ridge tennis courts are being poured this morning. The new contractor, LE Renner, plans to have the fence up by the middle of the week. The tennis courts are scheduled to be open for play by the middle of September.

Canyon View Park East is basically complete, with a few fairly large punch items left. Mr. Cooper said the site had some major grading issues, which cannot be fixed until October or November when the ground dries out. The tennis courts have been completed, although the nets have not been hung, as they are waiting for the turf to establish more before opening the courts for play. Joe Stevens stated the date for the dedication ceremony and exhibition football game has changed to October 23, 2004. Mr. Stevens stated the date is a little later than originally planned, however, the later date will allow the turf longer time to grow before play. Bruce Hill asked if the new amenities would complete Canyon View Park's master plan. Joe Stevens responded the new amenities are not part of the final phase, which require an additional \$1.3 - \$2 million to complete the park. In the meantime, there are plans to possibly grow some grass and wildflowers in the uncompleted area to improve the appearance of the undeveloped areas.

Shawn Cooper stated the plans are in motion for the new restroom at Duck Pond Park. The design will be very similar to the restrooms recently built at Riverside and Columbine Parks. Joe Stevens said the project will be carried forward to 2005, as Sheryl Trent is currently working on the CDBG grant funds that may still be used towards Duck Pond Park. If the grant funds are dedicated to Duck Pond Park, the Parks & Recreation Department will be working with Public Works in order to complete both projects simultaneously.

Mr. Cooper reported new display cases are scheduled for installation at Two Rivers Convention Center on August 23 and 24th.

Joe Stevens asked Tina Ross, Aquatics Coordinator, to provide the Board with an update on the swimming pools. Mrs. Ross stated there are currently two construction projects planned for the pools: 1) The roof at Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool is being completely removed and replaced. The pool will be closed during the project, which is scheduled to begin on August 25, 2004 and should be completed by September 7, 2004. The Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool's operations will be extended to September 20th, in order to try and accommodate the customers. The cost of the repair project will be approximately \$100,000, coming in under the original budgeted \$125,000. 2) Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool is scheduled to undergo leak repair and replastering this fall, at a cost of approximately \$112,000. Joe Stevens expressed the importance of the repair, as the pool is currently losing approximately 3,000 gallons a day due to the leak.

Tina Ross also reported on some safety concerns regarding the traditional “free day” at Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool. Free day sessions are offered every Wednesday and are open for all kids 17 and under, regardless of whether or not they live within City limits. Mrs. Ross reported the morning session has been fine, however; groups of kids, ranging from ages 8 – 13, have been creating a very unsafe environment during the afternoon session. Regular incidents have included theft, fights, and bringing knives to the pool. When the kids are reprimanded, they often threaten to return to the pool with guns. Although it originally started out as small group of kids, the problems are escalating, and “gang” related incidents are driving out the “good” kids. Due to these weekly incidents, staff is looking for ways to improve the operations and safety of the pool. Tina Ross requested suggestions/ideas for improvements. Bob Cron asked about the possibility of increasing the number of staff and or security at the pool. Mrs. Ross stated there have been approximately 25 staff members and 5 security/police officers patrolling the pool on free day. The kids who have been thrown out appear to be sneaking back in without being seen. Joe Stevens stated that providing a safe atmosphere on free day has become more challenging every year. Unfortunately, the parents who are attending with their children on free days, are forming bad impressions and, based on those impressions, are unwilling to return to the pool on regular days. Lisa Truong expressed the importance of continuing with the free day tradition, stating it is a very valuable activity for a large population of kids in the community. Several suggestions were discussed, including eliminating the afternoon session or possibly requiring an adult to accompany the kids during the afternoon session. Joe Stevens stated the pool safety issues will be brought back to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board at a later date, in hopes of finding some type of resolution prior to the 2005 summer season.

Tom Dixon asked what type of vandalism is occurring in the parks. Don Hobbs responded the vandalism ranges from graffiti to destruction of drinking fountains, blowing up toilets, damaging covers over electrical outlets, burning holes in the plastic playground equipment, etc.

Joe Stevens reported St. Mary’s Park is no longer under the City of Grand Junction. Mr. Stevens said the park has been reduced in size, but is still open to the public.

Joe Stevens reported the Bluff West Homeowner’s Association is ready to enter into serious negotiations with the City of Grand Junction. (See attached) The HOA owns property they are interested in deeding to the City in exchange for the property being developed into a neighborhood park. Mr. Stevens stated the property will require preliminary investigation, including some environmental assessing, before moving forward.

The Board members discussed the recent City Council deliberations regarding the possibility of selling park property to develop low income housing. Reford Theobold expressed his objections to the sale of park property, stating he remembers the agony the City went through trying to find park land at affordable prices. Dale Hollingsworth echoed Mr. Theobold’s concerns, stating it was very difficult to obtain park land and he does not support selling the land. Bob Cron stated he had suggested to Mayor Hill that the City consider entering into negotiations with Mesa State College, to possibly locate the low income housing on their D Road property.

Item 7: Other

Lisa Truong, representative of the City Youth Council, reported the council had just returned from a retreat at Camp Kiwanas. Ms. Truong stated the group established their new goals for the year,

which included, improving adults prospective of teenagers, continuing to promote a drug and alcohol free environment and pursuing ways to help the less fortunate youth in the community. Lisa Truong stated the group has started working on planning this year's New Year's Eve dance, hoping to make the event bigger and better than last year. Ms. Truong also reported the City Youth Council has been asked to be involved in the selection of a recipient for a \$1,000 Wal-Mart grant. Numerous charities are being considered, including the Parks & Recreation Scholarship Fund. Lisa Truong encouraged the Parks & Recreation Department to submit a grant request.

Item 8: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist