

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes November 18, 2004

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 12:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Derrieux

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Lisa Troung, City Youth Council
Dan Cummings, Parks Improvement Advisory Board
Jamie Hamilton, JUCO Representative

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Tom Dixon moved to approve the October 21, 2004 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes.
Bob Cron seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

Please Note: Lenna Watson entered the meeting after the October 21, 2004 minutes were approved.

Item 3: JUCO Projects

Jamie Hamilton extended his congratulations to the Parks & Recreation Department for winning the National Gold Medal Award.

Mr. Hamilton stated JUCO is looking forward to the upcoming Lincoln Park Master Plan project and they intend to contribute a significant amount of funding towards the project. Mr. Hamilton said JUCO's Executive Committee has seen all five concepts, and wants to do the best they can to spearhead the project and get it done. Cindy Enos-Martinez expressed that City Council needs the

receive JUCO's input sooner rather than later. Jamie Hamilton stated JUCO has already committed to a donation of \$25,000 towards the Lincoln Park sound system, plus an extra \$6,500 toward additional speakers in the outfield. Mr. Hamilton said JUCO, as a 501C3, currently has too much money in the fund; therefore, they are proposing to do some improvements at Lincoln Park. One of the projects they are proposing is the replacement of the stadium's scoreboard. The current scoreboard is over 10 years old, which makes it very difficult to find parts. Mr. Hamilton stated they are only receiving one bid (starting at \$150,000) from Daktronics, Inc., who is currently the national sponsor for NJCAA. (Daktronics, Inc. is the company who recently did a \$3.5 million improvement project at Coors Field.) The proposed scoreboard has trivision sides, which will allow for advertising, providing the potential for future cost reimbursements. The second project JUCO is proposing is to purchase 500 additional portable seats for the outfield and to install a scoreboard on top of the press box, which would face the outfield seats. Ticket holders will enter through the main gates, and once inside, will have access to all of the seating, including the outfield seats. Fencing will be installed around the stadium and portable restrooms will be brought in for the week. The cost of this project is approximately \$100,000. The total of both projects is estimated at \$250,000. Jamie Hamilton stated JUCO has already discussed these proposals with School District #51, who has agreed to the changes, as there is no cost to them. Tom Dixon asked if JUCO has considered installing more of the seats that have back supports. Jamie Hamilton responded the backed seats are currently too close together, making it uncomfortable for taller people, which is why they are installed every other row. Mr. Hamilton stated, at this time, JUCO does not plan to purchase more of the backed seats. Don Hobbs stated staff has reviewed the specifications for both proposals, including the seating and fencing, and they do not have any immediate concerns. Mr. Hobbs stated the seats are easily moved, which will allow the pathway to be open the other 51 weeks of the year.

Bob Cron moved to endorse JUCO's plan for improvements, including a big "thank you". Cindy Enos-Martinez seconded.

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

Cindy Enos-Martinez asked why we are not allowing beer to be sold in the stadium. Joe Stevens stated there were a couple of reasons beer is not being sold, including the location of the park being so close to the elementary school, and that the stadium is viewed as being primarily for people who are not of legal drinking age (high schools, college, etc.). Jamie Hamilton stated that JUCO currently does not have a position regarding alcohol sales at the stadium; however, they realize that the NJCAA would have difficulty in approving it in the content of their contract. Cindy Enos-Martinez stated the Mesa County Fairgrounds nearly eliminated the problem of people sneaking in alcohol, once they obtained a liquor license and began to sell alcohol.

Item 4: Lincoln Park Master Plan Progress Report

Joe Stevens stated the consultants are currently reviewing all comments and suggestions and are working on consolidating the five concepts into three plans. The three plans will be presented to City Council on December 13, 2004. Joe Stevens suggested having a joint meeting with Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks Improvement Advisory Board to present the three plans for input. The joint meeting will be scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on December 14, 2004. The current plan is to present a recommendation to City Council in February 2005. Bernie Goss stated he has heard various reviews, with none of the plans appearing to be preferred over the others. Shawn Cooper stated there were over 5,000 invitations mailed out for the last public meeting and

approximately 300 people attended the meeting. Of those, approximately 60% were adamant about not making any changes to the golf course and an estimated 40% were open to changes to the golf course. Other comments included increasing the green space as much as possible, improving and deepening the swimming pool, removing the barn and building an activity center. Joe Stevens stated when the three preferred concepts are presented, general cost estimates will be included. Joe Stevens said the recent passing of the School Board bond may impact the Lincoln Park Master Plan, as additional schools will require more facilities. Reford Theobald stated that Joe Stevens keeps trying to interject common sense and logic, imagine!

Item 5: Staff Reports

Joe Stevens reported an RFP was distributed for the concession operations within the park system. (Suplizio Field, Lincoln Park - Moyer Pool, Columbine Park, and at Kronkright) A total of 39 invitations were mailed to locals and to those who have expressed an interest. Only two proposals were received; Two Rivers Convention Center and the Recreation Aquatics Division. Mr. Stevens stated that in the process of reviewing the options, they contacted some of the organizations they originally thought would have been interested. (Deb Bertrami, the current concessionaire, said she is not interested as she is moving out of town, and Sedexho has not responded.) Mr. Stevens stated from this prospective, the Parks & Recreation Department might be doing concessions in house this year, using Parks & Recreation staff. Mr. Stevens stated Brian Ralph has an extensive background in operating major stadiums in Louisiana and has stated he feels Two Rivers Convention Center can run the concessions very effectively, while minimizing expenses. Reford Theobald asked if the applicants were required to contract for everything, including all of the small events. Joe Stevens responded the RFP was written in such a manner that applicants could bid the whole package or pick and choose (sort of a cafeteria approach). Mr. Stevens stated JUCO was also asked, and responded they were in no way interested, although they do want to discuss profit sharing with their event. Reford Theobald stated the previous vendor at the stadium often worked with non-profits in order to supplement staff on high volume events, minimizing the costs.

Item 6: Other Business

Bob Cron announced this was his last Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Cron and his family are moving to Hamilton, Montana. (Bob Cron stated he does plan to attend the joint meeting on December 14, 2004.) Mr. Cron said his house sold in less than a week, which has substantially moved up his departure date. Bob Cron thanked the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for the opportunity to serve on the Board and said he will miss everyone. The Board members wished Bob Cron well and thanked him for his years of dedication and service to our community. *We will miss you Bob! Good Luck!*

Bob Cron stated he has been giving a lot of thought to the decrease in the golf market and has recently discussed the issue with Travis Bunkelman. Mr. Cron stated he strongly encouraged Travis Bunkelman to aggressively explore an effort to bring out of town golfers to the Grand Valley. Bob Cron suggested getting all the golf courses in town to partner with the VCB and the Chamber of Commerce, in hopes of developing a marketing strategy in areas that have the opposite weather as Grand Junction. (Example: Promoting our cooler season when their home area is experiencing hot weather and vice versa) Mr. Cron stated the City's two golf courses are "spinning their wheels" and that the City can't do it by itself. Bob Cron expressed that perhaps, with other courses and business community involved, things can improve. Lenna Watson suggested the City offer a discounted card, similar to the cards Mesa State College sells.

Bob Cron stated he read that the YMCA is considering coming to Grand Junction. Mr. Cron stated 4-5 years ago Gene Kinsey was a big advocate for bringing their organization to town. While cleaning out his files, Mr. Cron came across the information Gene Kinsey had put together. David Detwiler volunteered to keep the file.

Tom Dixon asked if any park area was going to be incorporated in the Riverside Parkway. Shawn Cooper responded that everything currently being planned is part of the Riverside Parkway project and he has been in contact with them regarding landscaping requirements. Cindy Enos-Martinez stated a new overpass connecting Riverside to downtown is being planned, which will replace the existing underpass. Joe Stevens stated a major impact the project may have to the Parks & Recreation Department is from a maintenance aspect.

Joe Stevens stated City Council, as a part of the strategic plan, will be revisiting the Parks Master Plan next year. On a related note, one of the issues being considered is the possibility of creating regional park maintenance facilities versus one central location. David Detwiler asked if the City is still considering selling park land to fund an affordable housing project. Cindy Enos-Martinez stated City Council is still reviewing what land is available and that a final decision has not been made at this time. Cindy Enos-Martinez stated City Council has been receiving letters requesting the status of development at Burkey Park. The letters are questioning why the development is taking so long and why nothing has been done yet.

David Detwiler reported the ice rink is now very close to being built. Mr. Detwiler stated the building is scheduled to go out to bid in the next couple of weeks. David Detwiler stated the development hockey league will not be in place until next year.

Item 7: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist