

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Parks  
Improvement Advisory Board Joint Meeting  
December 14, 2004**

**Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 7:47 a.m.**

Roll Call

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Members Present:

Bernie Goss  
Tom Dixon  
David Detwiler  
Reford Theobald  
Lenna Watson  
Dennis Derrieux

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Members Absent:

Cindy Enos-Martinez

Parks Improvement Advisory Board

Members Present:

Dan Cummings  
Tillie Bishop  
Sue Gormely  
Andy Rodriguez  
Steve Phillips  
Lou Grasso

Parks Improvement Advisory Board

Members Absent:

Jamie Hamilton

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director  
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner  
Travis Bunkelman, Golf Professional  
Doug Jones, Golf Course Superintendent

Guests Present:

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates  
Ted Ciavonne, Ciavonne, Roberts Associates  
Lisa Truong, City Youth Council

**Item 2: Lincoln Park Master Plan**

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates, gave a presentation on the current status of the Lincoln Park Master Plan, requesting further direction. Mr. Kuhn stated the consultants and the Parks & Recreation Department have worked hard to obtain public input, hosting numerous public open houses (there were over 150 people at last public meeting). Paul Kuhn reported three plans were presented at the December 13, 2004 City Council meeting, in hopes of reaching a preferred concept. Concept A includes the golf course remaining the same, with only minor changes to the driving range. Mr. Kuhn stated if the golf course stays the same, there will not be a lot of flexibility to make other changes. Current areas of concern regarding this concept include the inability to meet current standards, the direction of the driving range, problems with the irrigation system, and issues surrounding the location of the maintenance area. Paul Kuhn reported the national trend in golf is currently down 10%, while Lincoln Park is currently down 20%, and that the trend is not anticipated to change any time soon. Concept B includes changing the golf course to a par 3, which would provide room for additional green space, new clubhouse, new golf parking lot, changing the old club house into recreation offices, upgrading the existing stadium complex, addition of a bus plaza, addition of a North access for major events, the Barn would be relocated to the South side of the loop area, additional and improved parking areas, and a pool expansion. Mr. Kuhn stated the disadvantage of this plan is that a par 3 course will “not” decrease the maintenance costs. Concept C includes changing the golf course into a learning and practice center, cutting the Tee boxes and greens in half (reducing the maintenance costs significantly), installing a North/South driving range located closer to the clubhouse, and including the possibility of lighting the driving range. This option would also create 30 additional acres of park land, would replace Stocker Stadium with a new football, soccer and track stadium (full size regulation track), replaces the Barn with an activity center, allows for a larger pool expansion, and would allow limited access between the North and South entries, providing a gated road, which can be opened for major events and/or bus parking. The Consultant team recommends some combination of Concepts B and C, recognizing the key decisions will be based on the golf and stadium options.

Ted Ciavonne briefly summarized comments from the City Council members. Mr. Ciavonne stated Council comments included concern about removing/relocating the barn, positive feedback regarding an activity center with the possibility of combining a new clubhouse with the activity center, requests for a connection to North Avenue with full access (left and right turns) for major events, support for turning the golf course into an executive course or a par 3, request for the final plans to be “incremental” for development, support for moving the track to a different location and turning the stadium into a football/soccer field, positive input regarding eliminating the loop, and encouraging comments concerning the idea of converting the current clubhouse into the recreation offices. Other Council comments included the desire to keep the 9-hole golf course as is, move the clubhouse to the current maintenance yard, suggestion to move the maintenance area to a different location, support for improved/additional parking, a question regarding the reasoning to keep the football field and track at Lincoln Park (suggestion to move them to another location), concern that the master plan needs to address the needs 25-50 years from now.

Discussion ensued regarding numerous golf course issues, including safety, which has become a major issue for the golf course, as approximately 80% of golfers slice the ball. Ted Ciavonne reported a lady, who lives four houses down from Gunnison Avenue, stated, at a recent public open house, that she now has to wear a helmet when mowing her lawn. Tom Dixon stated the

irrigation repairs should drive the golf course plans, as it doesn't make sense to complete an \$800,000 irrigation upgrade if the golf course is going to be reconfigured down the line. Paul Kuhn expressed concern that if only a few small changes are made to the course, the City will be leaving itself open to community ridicule and/or increased liability as to why they knew they had certain problems and didn't fix the problems when making changes to the golf course.

Lou Grasso stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board really can't move forward until City Council gives a final direction on the golf course. Tillie Bishop agreed, stating more direction is needed from City Council. David Detwiler stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory and Parks Improvement Advisory Boards need to come to a consensus first, then present their recommendations to City Council for consideration.

Lisa Truong reported the City Youth Council has been discussing the golf course at their meetings and appear to have different opinions, therefore; they have not reached a consensus at this time. Ms. Truong said the Youth Council did agree on the demand for a soccer field, recognizing the sport is growing fast in the Grand Valley. The Youth Council also discussed the importance of other improvements such as the track expansion, swimming pool expansion, parking lot expansion and the need for more open green space. Lisa Truong stated the Youth Council supports the idea of an activity center and swimming pool expansion as higher priorities.

Lenna Watson questioned the purpose of today's meeting, as to whether the meeting was intended for discussion only or if the Parks & Recreation Advisory and Parks Improvement Advisory Boards should make a formal recommendation. Joe Stevens stated the consultants are requesting direction in order to create one "preferred" plan with alternatives. Discussion ensued.

**Lenna Watson moved that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks Improvement Advisory Board recommend the consultants proceed using Option C as the preferred plan. (Plan would include: changing golf course into learning center, no new stadium, no changes to the track, "move and renovate" the Barn, combine an activity center with the clubhouse) Reford Theobold seconded.**

**Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 12 No 0**

**Motion was unanimously passed by all Parks & Recreation Advisory and Parks Improvement Advisory Board members present.**

Reford Theobold recommended the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board investigate the cost involved with constructing a new 9 hole golf course at Tiara Rado, as Mr. Theobold felt City Council will request such information if the preferred plan includes changes to Lincoln Park Golf Course. Doug Jones responded the estimated cost would be \$2.5 - 3 million.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of installing a fenced synthetic soccer field at Canyon View Park. Paul Kuhn stated the idea may be a possibility and could be researched further if requested.

Dan Cummings suggested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Parks Improvement Advisory Board members meet again after the holidays, allowing time for each member to consider the options/possibilities further.

**Item 3: Adjourn**

Dennis Derrieux asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Dixon moved and seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist