

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
March 18, 2004**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Bernie Goss at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Dennis Derrieux
Bob Cron

Board Members Absent:

David Detwiler
Dale Hollingsworth
Reford Theobald
Cindy Enos-Martinez (Ex-Officio)

Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
Eddie Mort, Recreation Coordinator

Guest:

Jerry Coutant

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bob Cron moved to approve the February 26, 2004 minutes. Dennis Derrieux seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 3 No 0

Chairman Goss declared a quorum of three (3) Board members.

Bob Cron introduced Jerry Coutant. Mr. Coutant is a Parks Professional who is visiting Grand Junction from Georgia. Jerry Coutant briefly commented on the exceptional parks the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department has and expressed they should be commended for the wonderful work they've done.

Item 3: SouthWest Fest Overview

Joe Stevens stated the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation SouthWest Fest program was taken on by the Parks & Recreation Department in 2003, after the Downtown Development Authority discontinued it. Eddie Mort reported there were approximately 7,000 people in attendance last year and that the Recreation Department was working to make the event bigger and better. Changes to this year's event include relocating the main stage to the main festival area, additional live music (3 bands total), and relocating the craft vendors to the outside perimeter, allowing more room in the festival area for the food, chili and salsa vendors. In addition, the "Farm & Ranch" area will include a petting zoo, in hopes of attracting more children. Arbor Fest is scheduled to

coincide with the big event and crossing guards will be provided to escort the children back and forth between the two events. Mr. Mort reported this year's festival already has numerous sponsors, including FCI Constructors, Future Farmers of America, Western Implement, KREX, KEKB, and American National Bank. Eddie Mort reported over 300 brochures were mailed to vendors from other events (Fruita Fall Festival, Strawberry Days, etc.) and he is currently receiving approximately 1-2 responses/registrations per day. Local advertisements are scheduled to begin in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Mort also said the "Barkey Bus" is scheduled again, as it proved to be very successful last year with the adoption of 6 or 7 dogs during the event.

Item 4: Update on Lincoln Park Master Plan

Joe Stevens reported on the review process of the Lincoln Park Master Plan proposals. The selections have been narrowed down to three candidates who are currently scheduled to give formal presentations on April 5, 2004. The finalists include (in no particular order) Winston Associates, BHA Incorporated, and Wenk. Mr. Stevens discussed the need to develop an implementation strategy, develop a timeline and establish commitments, requesting Parks & Recreation Advisory Board representation at the March 24, 2004 Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting. Bernie Goss and Bob Cron volunteered to attend the meeting.

Joe Stevens reported the Parks Improvement Advisory Board's vacancy has been filled, as Dan Cummings was appointed to the Board in March 2004. Mr. Cummings has also volunteered to serve on the Lincoln Park Master Plan review committee.

Mr. Stevens reported the design team is currently in place for the Lincoln Park sound system; however, it is very unlikely the system will be in operation before the JUCO season.

Item 5: Correspondence

Bernie Goss reported that he and Bob Cron recently met at Canyon View Park to investigate a potential dog park site. Mr. Goss stated they identified a strip of land, running parallel to I-70, which has grass, trees and plenty of parking. The area would only require some clean-up and additional fencing. Bob Cron expressed concern regarding the high usage of Canyon View Park, however, stated the specific area being considered does not appear to be receiving much use. Mr. Goss and Mr. Cron stated they were comfortable recommending this location as a possibility. Dennis Derrieux expressed his concern regarding the location not having water, due to the dog park representatives rejecting the last location for the lack of water. Bob Cron responded the area does have some settling ponds that do have water during the irrigation season. Bernie Goss stated that, should a dog park be opened, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board would need to request the cooperation of Mesa County Animal Control to begin enforcing the off-leash law. Bob Cron suggested Shawn Cooper put together a tentative development plan, including a cost estimate, which will be reviewed at a future Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Joe Stevens suggested the Board invite the dog park representatives to the next meeting, in order to allow them an opportunity to voice their comments, prior to presenting the development plan to City Council.

Item 6: Other Business

Bob Cron voiced his concern regarding the fact that the Canyon View Park baseball field sidewalks are not connected to the restrooms. Joe Stevens responded he would research the sidewalk status and report back to the Board.

Mari Steinbach reported the Parks & Recreation Department is excited to sponsor the “Ultimate Clank and Crank Hat Tournament” coming April 16 – 18, 2004. The tournament (Frisbee and mountain biking) will bring in over 100 players from the SouthWest region.

Mari Steinbach reported on the recent success of the “Dive-n-Jive” program at Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool. The last Dive-n-Jive event had over 350 kids in attendance – truly an exceptional turn out!

Joe Stevens reported on the current status of the Pine Ridge tennis courts. As reported at the February 26, 2004, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting, the contractor has filed bankruptcy. Mr. Stevens stated the federal court system will not permit any reassignment of projects until a formal action is taken. Bob Cron suggested the Parks & Recreation Department notify the user groups of the reason for the delay.

Joe Stevens reported on the March 9, 2004 meeting with St. Mary’s representatives. The property discussions are still on-going and the current lease was extended for another 3 months.

Joe Stevens also reported on the March 3, 2004 Wingate Park meeting with School District Superintendent, Tim Mills. Mr. Stevens stated it was a very promising meeting, which may result in a long term property lease in exchange for the maintenance of the grounds. (Contract would be similar to the Eagle Rim and Pomona Park agreements.)

Bernie Goss questioned the maintenance of the track’s high jump area, stating the top surface is coming up causing a safety issue. Joe Stevens responded he would discuss it with Buzz Schoenbeck, School District #51, Athletics Director.

Item 7: Adjourn

Bernie Goss asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Derrieux moved and Bob Cron seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist