

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes  
April 15, 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  
David Detwiler  
Dale Hollingsworth  
Reford Theobold  
Lenna Watson

Board Members Absent:

Bob Cron  
Cindy Enos-Martinez

Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director  
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner  
Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent  
Larry Manchester, Recreation Supervisor  
Traci Altergott, Recreation Supervisor

Guest:

Paula Muncy, Summer Theatre Program  
Tom Muncy, Summer Theatre Program  
Dan Cummings, Parks Improvement Advisory Board

**Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Dennis Derrieux moved to approve the March 18, 2004 minutes. David Detwiler seconded the motion.

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

**Item 3: Midwest NRPA Award Presentation**

Mari Steinbach introduced Paula and Tom Muncy with the Summer Theatre program then announced the Summer Theatre program has recently been awarded the National Recreation & Parks Association Midwest Region Arts and Humanities Award. The Summer Theatre program is for youth ages 5 – 18 years old and is headed into its 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Ms. Steinbach stated that one of the things that sets the program apart from others is that it is “all inclusive”; meaning that “all” children who audition get a part. Traci Altergott thanked Paula Muncy for all of her hard work and dedication, stating that Mrs. Muncy has truly poured her “heart and soul” into the program. Paula Muncy gave a brief description of her background and how she became involved with theatre. Mrs. Muncy stated the program has been a wonderful opportunity to bring unity into the youth community, encouraging youth, teenagers and families to work together. The program

has been extremely successful, while managing to keep the rates low. Paula Muncy stated a huge contributor to maintaining the low rates is due to the large amount of volunteers, mainly consisting of the participants' families and friends. Paula Muncy reported volunteers contributed approximately 1,500 hours towards the program last year alone. The Summer Theater program has proven to be a very successful collaboration between Paula Muncy and the Parks & Recreation Department, allowing the community's youth to have fun while learning more about singing, acting and dancing.

Joe Stevens commended the Recreation Division for their involvement in the Summer Theatre Program, and for the numerous improvements the staff has made over the last few years with regards to all of the programs, stating the Recreation Division has "come a long way". Mr. Stevens stated the upcoming Activity Guide illustrates the wide variety of activities and events the Recreation Division now offers. (The Summer Activity Guide will be released on May 5, 2004.) Joe Stevens also reported on the new on-line registration system, "FunnLinkExpress", which is currently in the testing phase and is due to go live on May 5, 2004. A "test launch", consisting of a mailing to over 1300 customers, is scheduled for the week of April 19, 2004.

#### **Item 4: Public Comment**

Mr. Lon Anselman, who lives at 2190 Buffalo Drive (adjacent to Wingate Park), attended the meeting in order to voice his opinion on the future development of Wingate Park. (See Attached) Mr. Anselman expressed his frustration with the proposed development, stating he was not told of the plans prior to purchasing his property, and never would have bought the house had he known a park was going to be developed in "his backyard". Mr. Anselman stated he has also discussed many of his concerns with School District #51 representatives, Jack McKelvy and Tim Mills and that he appreciates the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's consideration regarding the matter. Reford Theobald stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's dilemma is they have to make decisions based on what is good for the whole community, versus basing decisions on a single property owner. Dale Hollingsworth stated that growth is all around us and questioned how long Mr. Anselman was proposing his conditions be met? Lenna Watson asked Mr. Anselman what he would want done if he was on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Anselman responded he would like everything in the park to be located on the West side of the property. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board agreed to take Mr. Anselman's request into consideration. Mr. Anselman, prior to leaving the meeting, stated Shawn Cooper has been very helpful, trying to address his concerns the best he could.

Discussion ensued. Joe Stevens stated Wingate Park is a part of the master plan, at which time it was identified for park purposes. Mr. Stevens also commended Shawn Cooper for working so diligently with Mr. Anselman, as well as the entire Wingate neighborhood. Mr. Cooper recently made some changes to the plan in order to free up some of the site lines from the Anselman property. Reford Theobald stated that, although the Board understands Mr. Anselman's concerns, they have not and cannot let one property owner veto a park. Mr. Theobald continued, stating the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's goal is to find something that is "acceptable" for the community, as the Board will never be able to find something that "everyone" is happy with.

Shawn Cooper reported he has received several inquisitions regarding the fencing at Wingate Park. Mr. Anselman has also requested the City put up a fence between his property and the park. Due to the high cost and the potential risk of setting a precedent with other home owners, the Board unanimously agreed "not" to install a fence between the park and Mr. Anselman's property.

Dan Cummings, Parks Improvement Advisory Board Chairman, also expressed concern regarding the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board potentially setting a precedent by providing Mr. Anselman with a fence. Mr. Cummings agreed with Mr. Theobold, stating he does not encourage the Board to make a decision based on one homeowner. Bernie Goss stated the staff should be commended for their strong communication efforts, and their orchestration with the school district, addressing the issues as they arise. Lenna Watson suggested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes be forwarded to School District #51 representatives, Jack McKelvy and Tim Mills. Joe Stevens reported the City is still working with School District #51 on the Wingate property lease. Both parties are trying to reach a mutual agreement on the terms of the lease.

**Item 5: Lincoln Park Master Plan – Update**

Joe Stevens stated the Lincoln Park master plan is on the agenda for the City Council meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2004, at which time City Council will consider a request to retain the services of Winston & Associates. Bernie Goss stated that he, Bob Cron and Reford Theobold served on the review panel and were thoroughly impressed with Winston's team. Mr. Goss said Winston & Associates successfully addressed the issues, resulting in a unanimous recommendation to award them the contract.

**Item 6: St. Mary's Park – Status Report**

Joe Stevens reported on the current status of the St. Mary's Park agreement. St. Mary's Hospital is not interested in providing any additional park property; therefore, Joe Stevens recommends the Parks & Recreation Department extend the current agreement until such time as the hospital has the roadway put through. At that time, the Parks & Recreation Department would discontinue maintaining St. Mary's Park.

**Item 7: Correspondence**

Joe Stevens reminded the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members of the upcoming SouthWest Fest, scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2004, beginning at 10 a.m. Bernie Goss provided Lenna Watson with a brief background of SouthWest Fest and how the Parks & Recreation Department ended up coordinating the event.

**Item 8: Other Business**

Bernie Goss reported he has recently been approached by several people regarding there not being a flag pole at the Canyon View Park baseball field. Don Hobbs responded this field has never had a flag pole; however, he had just spoken to School District #51 this morning, inviting them to purchase a flag pole for the field. Don Hobbs stated the approximate cost for a flag pole is \$2,500.

Dale Hollingsworth reported his term on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is expiring on June 30, 2004, and that he will not be requesting reappointment. Mr. Hollingsworth stated he has enjoyed serving on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and said he feels the Parks & Recreation staff does an excellent job. He also said he felt City Council has been exceedingly supportive, over a long period of time, by being generous in desires and improvements. Chairman Goss thanked Dale Hollingsworth for his hard work, dedication and support, stating his experience level has proven to be a tremendous asset to the Board. Dan Cummings also thanked Mr. Hollingsworth for his strong commitment to our community. Mr. Hollingsworth will truly be missed! The terms for David Detwiler and Dennis Derrieux will also be expiring on June 30, 2004. Both members have elected to seek reappointment.

Lenna Watson expressed her excitement regarding her appointment to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Mrs. Watson stated she has a lot to learn and thanked the Board members for the opportunity. Lenna Watson also stated she feels the Board is suffering a loss with the upcoming departure of Dale Hollingsworth.

Dennis Derrieux reported he has been receiving phone calls regarding the recent article on the City of Grand Junction selling parks land for money; in particular, Saccomanno Park. Mr. Derrieux questioned if there was any truth to the article. Reford Theobold responded that City Council's discussion was intended to be more in line with how much property the City owns, and somehow the discussion was sidetracked into a discussion of potentially selling park land. Mr. Theobold stated he does not feel City Council has a real desire to sell parks property, stating it was just a part of a broad discussion. Bernie Goss stated the sale of parks land would have to go on a public ballot and normally the citizens of Grand Junction do not vote in favor of selling parks property. Joe Stevens stated City Council's discussion was intended to focus on the "inventory" of all City owned properties, as City Council is looking at a potential affordable income housing project.

Reford Theobold provided an update on the achievements of the Lilac Park committee, which consists of himself, Kelly Arnold, Mark Relph and Joe Stevens. The committee had an initial meeting last month, at which time they established a plan. Joe Stevens reported he wrote a letter to Ed Fink, Region 3 Transportation Director of CDOT, and has received a response stating the Parks & Recreation Department may plant as many lilacs as they want and are free to build a shelter, parking lot, etc., as long as CDOT is allowed to review the plans prior to the Parks & Recreation Department taking any action.

**Item 9: Adjourn**

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist