

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes June 16, 2005

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 12:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Lenna Watson
David Detwiler
Dennis Derrieux
Tom Dixon
Jack Neckels
Reford Theobold
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Shawn Cooper, Park Planner
Travis Bunkelman, Golf Pro

Guests:

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bernie Goss requested Doug Thomason be listed as “present” at the May 19, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. David Detwiler moved to approve the May 19, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes with the above correction. Lenna Watson seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 7 No 0

Item 3: Resume Dog Park Discussion

Doug Thomason reported City Council has approved moving forward with the plans to develop a dog park, dedicating \$30,000 to the project for fencing and signs. Mr. Thomason said Council also discussed the possibility of changing the ordinance, as well as the importance of additional enforcement; however, no final decisions have been made. Councilman Thomason stated, since the time of the Council retreat, there has been discussion regarding the Council touring the proposed location, due to the fact they have received numerous requests from the dog owners for a

water feature. Mr. Thomason said City Council agrees it is not practical to fence off the existing ponds at Canyon View Park, as there are too many other activities taking place around the ponds (jogging, fly fishing, etc.) Doug Thomason stated City Council is moving forward with the dog park concept and could have something in place as early as this fall. Lenna Watson asked if it would help if representatives of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board attended the tour. Doug Thomason said, yes, it would be a good idea to have Board members attend the tour, and possibly some local dog owners. Mr. Thomas said City Council has received a considerable amount of feedback regarding the proposed dog park, with the majority of the feedback requesting "water" be included in package. (Doug Thomason said a majority of those providing the feedback are large breed owners) Joe Stevens reported that he and Shawn Cooper have recently been in touch with Public Works following up on a lead that indicated there is a federal agency that may dig ponds for free. Shawn Cooper is working with Tim Moore to get more information. Mr. Stevens suggested the possibility of the City being responsible for the actual development of the water feature, and request the dog owners provide funds to line and finish the water feature. Joe Stevens said other dog parks around the country do not have water features, yet have proven to be extremely popular. Mr. Stevens stated there are many dog parks on the Eastern Slope that have been most successful and the majority of these parks are free to the public.

Item 4: Golf Course Operations

Travis Bunkelman distributed a financial management worksheet (See attached), stating the Golf Division is using the information as a tool to better prepare for the upcoming budget. Mr. Bunkelman said the revenue stream at Tiara Rado is much better this year, partially due to the cart lease being paid off in April. (The golf course now owns 82 carts, which is saving approximately \$20,000 a year.) Travis Bunkelman stated that sooner or later the carts may have to be replaced with electric carts, as gas carts may not be an option. Mr. Bunkelman reported Tiara Rado has a stronger revenue stream this year, and said they are working hard to keep their expenses down. Travis Bunkelman reported Lincoln Park is doing a little better this year, but they still have a long ways to go. Mr. Bunkelman said the revenue stream is not as strong as at Tiara Rado, but they have decreased their expenses considerably. Travis Bunkelman reviewed the rounds spreadsheet, listing the rounds at Lincoln Park in 1991 at approximately 60,000 rounds, which has decreased to approximately 32,298 rounds per year. Tiara Rado started at 93,757 rounds in 1991 and is now at 72,478 rounds per year. Mr. Bunkelman stated it is becoming more and more important for the golf courses to spend additional money in advertising, to continue increasing programs, and to promote junior players, as they are the "future" for the golf industry. Travis Bunkelman reported on the green fees, stating the fees are very much in line with the majority of the municipal golf courses. Mr. Bunkelman stated the municipalities continue to hold the green fees down. The average fee is currently \$27-\$28, Tiara Rado is currently charging \$22.50. Travis Bunkelman stated it is becoming more and more difficult to compete, as there are many new golf courses, and the wealth is now being spread too thin. However, he stated for the most part, the courses are in good shape, and are continuing to explore ways to lower their expenses. Mr. Bunkelman reported the Rocky Mountain Open contract has been extended for two more years. The only change to the contract is that they intend to bring back the four ball, which will hopefully bring more Western Slope professionals to the tournament. The organizers plan to use Redlands Mesa for one of their pro-ams, which Mr. Bunkelman expressed was a "good" thing, as it will allow Lincoln Park to remain open for the public during the tournament. The Rocky Mountain Open has been scheduled for August 23 – August 26, 2005.

Item 5: Capital Improvement Program (10 year CIP)

Joe Stevens reported on three major projects in the CIP, stating that starting next fall, the first priority will be to replace the irrigation system at Lincoln Park Golf Course (approximately \$900,000). The second priority is the Pear Park gymnasium school project, and the third priority will be the gymnasium at Bookcliff Middle School. Mr. Stevens stated these three projects will use up most of the Parks & Recreation revenue for the next five years. Joe Stevens said additional CIP items will include neighborhood park upgrades, trail replacements, restroom construction, etc. Mr. Stevens reported City Council has also discussed the development of a neighborhood park in 2007 or 2008; however, at this time they are not in agreement as to which neighborhood. Joe Stevens briefly reported on the stadium plan, stating Mayor Hill has made it clear to the Parks Improvement Advisory Board that the stadium plan will remain on hold until some of the local partners decide to make monetary contributions towards improvements. JUCO has expressed an interest in contributing towards the stadium plan; however, they need other organizations to participate as well. Reford Theobald expressed his frustration that City Council has decided to proceed with replacing the Lincoln Park Golf Course irrigation system, stating Council is under the presumption that nothing is going to ever happen with Lincoln Park. Jack Neckels asked if any projects were eliminated when City Council reshuffled the priorities of the CIP. Joe Stevens responded the development of Saccomanno Park was originally in the CIP for 2007, and has now been moved back indefinitely. Joe Stevens stated if the Board members have any suggestions or concerns regarding the CIP, to please bring them to the July Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Item 6: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Job Description – Bernie Goss

Chairman Goss requested this item be removed from the agenda and addressed at a later date, suggesting August or September.

Item 7: Correspondence

Joe Stevens distributed invitations to the June 28, 2005 Grand Opening of the Lincoln Park-Moyer Pool splashground.

A brief discussion took place regarding the "lunch loop" negotiations between the City of Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department and BLM. Joe Stevens stated these negotiations have been taking place the past eight years, and are still on-going.

Item 8: Other Business

Bernie Goss reported he recently has received several inquiries and complaints regarding the Shrine Circus employees camping at Lincoln Park. Joe Stevens reported the City ordinance states the Director has the authority to grant permission to camp, and does so occasionally for events such as the Shrine Circus, Relay for Life, swim meets, etc. Mr. Stevens said he would prefer a circus employee be on sight when there are elephants in the park, so it's probably a good thing. Don Hobbs stated the damage to the field by the Circus was minimal, and that four graduation ceremonies had more of an impact on the field than the Circus.

Doug Thomason said he has received several positive comments regarding Wingate Park, stating the public has been very complimentary of the new park.

Item 9: Future Meetings Agenda

Joe Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is scheduled to elect officers at the July 2005 Board meeting. Mr. Stevens stated the Board has been electing a Chair and Vice Chair annually at the July meetings; however, it was recently brought to his attention that according to the bylaws, the election should be taking place at the June meetings. It was also pointed out that the term limit of the Chair has been exceeded, Bernie Goss has now served as the Board's Chair for three consecutive years. According to the bylaws, all Parks & Recreation Advisory Board officers have a term limit of two consecutive years. Elections will take place at the July 21, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Item 10: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist