

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

July 21, 2005

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bernie Goss
 Dennis Derrieux
 Jack Neckels
 Dennis Teeters
 Tom Dixon
 Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: Reford Theobold
 David Detwiler

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
 Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
 Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
 Shawn Cooper, Park Planner

Guests: Mayor Bruce Hill

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Tom Dixon moved to approve the June 16, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Jack Neckels seconded.

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

Item 3: Introduction of Newly Appointed Board Member, Dennis Teeters

Bernie Goss introduced Dennis Teeters, former School District #51 Athletic Director. Dennis Teeters thanked the Board for the opportunity and said he looks forward to serving as a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member.

Item 4: Election of Officers

Joe Stevens opened the floor for nominations of Chair. Bernie Goss nominated Tom Dixon. Jack Neckels seconded the nomination for Tom Dixon. Joe Stevens asked for any additional nominations. There were no other nominations. Joe Stevens closed the floor for nominations of Chair. Tom Dixon was unanimously selected as the new Chair of the Parks & Recreation

Advisory Board. Tom Dixon opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Dennis Derrieux nominated David Detwiler. Jack Neckels seconded the nomination. Tom Dixon asked for any additional nominations. There were no other nominations. Tom Dixon closed the floor for nominations of Vice Chair. David Detwiler was unanimously selected as the new Vice Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Congratulations Tom Dixon and David Detwiler!

Item 5: Resume Dog Park Discussion

Chairman Dixon reported City Council had recently approved \$30,000 towards the development of a dog park at Canyon View Park. Doug Thomason stated City Council reached a decision during the tour of the proposed location, at which they decided to move forward with committing \$30,000 towards developing the dog park. In addition, they intend to ask the dog owner groups to take ownership in the park with regards to developing extra amenities, such as shade shelters, trails, etc. Councilman Thomason stated that hopefully, through an organized effort, the dog owner groups will be able to raise the funds to make the dog park a place they can call their own. Joe Stevens reported his research into enlarging the size of the current water feature has not been successful. Mr. Stevens said the Parks & Recreation Department will continue to try and raise funds through the participating dog owner groups, with hopes of building a larger water feature in the future. Shawn Cooper reported he is currently working on obtaining bids for the fencing. Mr. Cooper said the bids are for a very large fence, as they will be fencing nearly 3 ¼ acres. Shawn Cooper stated there have been problems lately acquiring competitive bids, as the entire valley is overwhelmed with construction. Mr. Cooper said the current plan is to bring the signage, rules and regulations information to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board in August for review. The dog park is scheduled to open in early fall 2005. Dennis Derrieux stated the Board will soon need to address additional areas of concern, including the possibility of having to separate the smaller dogs from the large dogs, and safety issues with children (some parks limit the age by prohibiting children under 12). Joe Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation staff has completed a considerable amount of research on dog parks, and has also received numerous phone calls regarding these issues, including the option of separating the different sizes of dogs. Mr. Stevens said "enforcement" is also an issue that will have to be addressed, and discussed the current campaign Mesa County Animal Control has recently implemented. The Animal Control Officers are running a "positive" reinforcement campaign, in which they reward dog owners who are "caught" with their dogs "on" a leash. When the dog owners are seen doing the right thing, the Animal Control Officers give them a coupon for a free pizza. Doug Thomason asked when the official public announcement should take place. Joe Stevens responded his understanding was, at this time, to have the Parks & Recreation Department move forward quietly. Doug Thomason said he was concerned that the "unknown" could possibly cause the public to negatively react, suggesting it might be better to send out a news release. Joe Stevens stated that once the bids for the fencing have been received and a timeline has been developed, the Department will make a public announcement. Dennis Derrieux said he agrees with Mr. Stevens, that if someone asks about the development it is fine to provide them with the information; however, it is not necessary to make a public announcement at this time.

Item 6: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Perspective/Discussion on Capital Improvements

Joe Stevens distributed a Capital Improvement Project Expenditures and Transfers worksheet (See attached) which is a listing of the integrated ideas and modifications received from public input,

boards, and commissions. Joe Stevens briefly discussed the School District #51 projects, in which there is collaboration to build additional gymnasiums at Pear Park and at Bookcliff Middle School. Mr. Stevens reported the process at Pear Park has recently slowed down more than expected, but the bid for the alternate second gym at Bookcliff Middle School will go forward as scheduled. Joe Stevens reported the school contract was awarded to FCI Constructors, but will be held for 30 days waiting for City Council's approval to move forward with the Bookcliff Middle School project. Mr. Stevens said the price to build the gymnasium came in at approximately \$103.00/sq. ft., which is a good number for this type of construction. Joe Stevens said the project is tied to the School District's bonding capacity, as the City will be able to borrow money from the School District and pay them back over a period of time. Mr. Stevens stated this is not the first fiscal partnership the City has made with the County, referring to the newly built parking lot at Pomona Elementary, in which the City and County have had an excellent relationship. Joe Stevens said City Council agreed to pay for the parking lot, without knowing if the School District would get the bond issue passed, but agreed to pay the City back over time. The School District is now willing to help the City fund the gymnasium projects for the benefit of the community. Mr. Stevens also reported the Parks & Recreation Department has recently been asked to consider the possibility of maintaining Long's Park. Bruce Hill discussed the importance of the City performing the maintenance and handling the programming at Long's Park. Mayor Hill said the County agrees that rather than having two completely separate park administrations, it would be better to combine the two. Mr. Hill said one of the worst things that could happen would be to have a two tier fee structure for the various sports in the Grand Valley (softball, soccer, etc.), forcing people to pick one organization over the other. Joe Stevens reported that Sue Gormley recently asked the Parks & Recreation Department to put together a proposal for the maintenance, specifically similar to a smaller version of Canyon View Park. Joe Stevens stated that unfortunately, the Parks & Recreation Department can't afford to tackle all of the CIP projects, and that most likely the emphasis will be on gyms.

Mr. Stevens also said it is currently in the budget to complete some minor upgrades and improvements at Burkey Park. Mayor Hill expressed the importance of everyone keeping in mind that just because an area doesn't have green grass, it doesn't mean the area can't be improved with a little maintenance. Joe Stevens briefly discussed the status of the Lincoln Park Master Plan. City Council has listed the replacement of the golf course irrigation system as the highest priority. The irrigation replacement will occur over two phases, the first will be to replace the main line, (beginning in the fall of 2006), with the additional lateral lines scheduled for replacement during the second phase. Mr. Stevens stated that, when and if, another use for golf course facility is determined, the new irrigation lines will be adaptable for other purposes. Tom Dixon stated he does not want the completion of Canyon View Park to remain unfinished "indefinitely". Mr. Dixon discussed the need for more improvements at Canyon View Park, including the need for shade at the baseball park. Chairman Dixon asked whether or not there were any JUCO funds available for use at Canyon View Park, as he would like to see some marginal improvements to the facility. Tom Dixon suggested the possibility of planting additional trees along the fence. Don Hobbs stated adding trees would not be an option presently, as the baseball area of the park does not have irrigation water. Jack Neckels said he does not see anything in the CIP that is inconsistent with the Parks Master Plan and that he strongly encourages the Parks & Recreation Department to take advantage of upcoming opportunities. Mr. Neckels stated he appreciates the fact that the Department, although always eager to complete projects, takes the time to develop a high quality project that is completed "right the first time" versus pushing to complete the project faster. Dennis Teeters asked if the school gymnasium costs included any equipment. Joe Stevens

responded the cost included a fully functional gymnasium, restrooms, basketball hoops, and a supervisor area; the cost does not include any additional equipment. Joe Stevens reported Tim Mills, School District #51 Superintendent, has been great to work with and is very supportive. Mr. Stevens stated, over the years, the Parks & Recreation Department has developed a much stronger relationship with the School District, with the help of many individuals, including the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's newest member, Dennis Teeters.

Item 7: Other Business

Bernie Goss reported on a recent conversation he had with School District #51 Athletic Director Steve Phillips, who asked about the upcoming plans for concessions during the softball season. Mr. Phillips had expressed his concern over there not being any concessions at Columbine and Kronkright Fields in the past. Joe Stevens responded he would have Traci Altergott, Interim Manager at Two Rivers Convention Center, contact Mr. Phillips directly. Mr. Stevens stated it has been a real "hit and miss" for the concessions at Columbine and Kronkright fields, as the tournaments are often canceled and the communication has not been as good as it should be. Joe Stevens stated Two Rivers Convention Center would either need to contract out concessions or start providing satellite concessions. Joe Stevens reported the concession operations had a bit of a shaky start, but have completely turned around since then. Mr. Stevens said the operation is now generating two times the revenue the past concessionaire was reporting.

Item 8: Future Meetings Agenda

Dog Park Update

Item 9: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist