

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

August 18, 2005

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tom Dixon
Bernie Goss
Dennis Derrieux
Jack Neckels
Dennis Teeters
Reford Theobald
David Detwiler
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Shawn Cooper, Park Planner
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bernie Goss moved to approve the July 21, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Jack Neckels seconded.

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

Item 3: Draft Dog Park Rules/Regulations

Joe Stevens reported the fencing for the dog park is out to bid. Mr. Stevens stated the project is still on track for a fall grand opening. Shawn Cooper distributed a draft copy of the rules and regulations, requesting input from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members (See attached). Doug Thomason recommended the rules and regulations include the hours of the dog park, which will be the same as City park hours. Tom Dixon suggested changing the rule regarding spike or pinch collars from "should be removed" to "must be removed". Dennis Derrieux asked what the consequences are if the rules are broken. Would it be a situation similar to "three strikes and your out"? Shawn Cooper responded it would first have to be determined "who" will police the dog park, and that most dog parks are self policed. Mr. Cooper said he will follow-up with Animal Control to discuss enforcement of the rules and regulations. Discussion

also ensued regarding who the public would contact in case of an incident (dog bite, etc.) Shawn Cooper said it has not yet been determined whether the dog owners would contact Animal Control or the Police Department and that he will also discuss this issue with Animal Control. Jack Neckels stated there needs to be more definition in the rules, in order to avoid conflicting interpretations, and that a solid ordinance should be developed prior to enforcement. Joe Stevens stated the rules and regulations will be reviewed by the Legal Department, and that the intent is to get the rules posted, as soon as possible so the public will be aware of the expectations. Mr. Stevens said the current plan is to provide a high presence initially, dealing with issues on a case by case basis. Joe Stevens said there may not be as many issues as feared, discussing an example of when the skate parks were originally developed. The City was very concerned about liability issues and, to date, although there have been accidents, not a single lawsuit has been filed. Bernie Goss stated it was important for the Board to keep in mind that the County will also be very supportive of this project. Dennis Derrieux suggested changing the rule to not allow children at all in the dog park. Tom Dixon asked Shawn Cooper if he is aware of any dog parks that have closed due to problems. Shawn Cooper responded he has not heard of any dog parks closing and that they have proven to be very popular. Tom Dixon stated the rules and regulations should be kept short enough that the public will pay attention to them. David Detwiler suggested including verbiage which states the Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to close the dog park for special events, training sessions, etc., which would prevent the public from "expecting" the dog park to always be open. Shawn Cooper stated he has come across dog parks that have fenced off areas, which can be reserved for dog training classes, etc. Joe Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation Department will proceed, sending the draft rules and regulations to the Legal Department for review, then to the Board members for final comments. Dennis Derrieux asked if there were plans to separate the small dogs from the large dogs. Shawn Cooper responded that, at this time, additional fencing may not be affordable. Mr. Cooper asked the Board for suggestions of a name for the dog park. Discussion ensued. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members suggested naming the dog park "Bark Park".

Item 4: Concessions at Kronkright and Columbine Parks

Traci Altergott, reported that she and Donna Redd recently met with School District #51 Athletic Director Steve Phillips, in order to determine the School District's need for concessions. Ms. Altergott confirmed Two Rivers Convention Center intends to staff all women's softball games. Traci Altergott said there most likely will not be concessions for the City's adult softball leagues, as it has not been profitable in the past; however, Two Rivers Convention Center intends to provide vending machines whenever concessions are not available. Traci Altergott said Donna Redd also met with Mesa State College Athletic Director, Nick Adams, to determine their concession needs for football season. Ms. Altergott stated Two Rivers Convention Center intends to set up satellite stations on the Northwest side of the football field, in addition to the main concession stand, in hopes of reducing the long lines and providing faster service. Traci Altergott stated she is also trying to contact Russ Means with Mesa County Jr. Football, to notify him of Two River's interest in providing concessions at Canyon View Park during the junior football games. Ms. Altergott discussed the difficulty of providing concessions for soccer games, as the soccer association does not have a set schedule. Traci Altergott stated Two Rivers Convention Center does not get a lot of feedback from the local soccer groups. Reford Theobold asked how the concessions did during JUCO. Traci Altergott stated the concession operation did extremely well, bringing in much higher figures than the previous concessionaire had reported.

Item 5: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Goals for 2006

Tom Dixon stated he wanted to discuss the Parks & Recreation CIP budget for upcoming years, stating that although the priorities are pretty well defined (Lincoln Park Golf Course irrigation system, Bookcliff Middle School gymnasium, etc.) he felt it was the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's job to continue looking for additional opportunities. Mr. Dixon asked if the Board members currently had any ideas for consideration. Reford Theobald stated he wished the City could have taken advantage of the Redlands Middle School opportunity years ago, and that he hopes partnerships similar to the Bookcliff Middle School continue to take place. Bernie Goss expressed that Long's Park will be another important opportunity between the City and County. Tom Dixon discussed the importance of completing Canyon View Park, expressing his concern that Canyon View Park may end up outgrowing itself in a short time. Mr. Dixon stated if the Board does not continue with visualizing the final stages, he is concerned Canyon View Park may have many similar problems to what Lincoln Park has today. Tom Dixon asked about the possibility of pursuing the sale of advertisement signs at the Canyon View Park baseball complex. Mr. Dixon stated the signs would provide a better enclosure to the complex and would also make it appear more "finished". Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of double sided signs, allowing the advertisement to be read by both the fans and the people driving by on the interstate. Tom Dixon stated he would like the Parks & Recreation Department to be in position to capture advertising opportunities whenever possible. Joe Stevens reported, unfortunately, there are not enough funds in the 10 year CIP, to even come close to completing Canyon View Park. Joe Stevens briefly discussed the growing demands of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Stevens gave examples of the Department taking on bigger responsibilities than anticipated, regardless of the fact that there will not be any additional staffing or budget increases (Example: Wingate Park, which started out as an agreement to maintain a 3.5 acre park, later turned into over 7 acres for the Parks staff to maintain.) Mr. Stevens stated that, due to these growing responsibilities, the Parks & Recreation Department has to be very "creative" in thinking of ways to reduce costs, and that one suggestion has been to modify the mowing schedule. Mr. Stevens stated, while reducing the number of times the parks are mowed would decrease costs, the community might not feel it is an "acceptable" change. Joe Stevens briefly discussed the challenges of maintaining and programming for Long's Park, and the difference in the quality of maintenance between County, School District, and City properties. (Example: West Middle School compared to Wingate Elementary) Reford Theobald expressed the importance of continuing to purchase land for future parks, knowing that the parks might not be developed for years, versus trying to "catch up" later due to growth in the Grand Valley. Shawn Cooper echoed Mr. Theobald's concern, reporting the cost for land acquisitions has tripled during the past five years.

Item 6: Other Business

David Detwiler reported on the construction of the new dual immersion academy, which will be located in the old Riverside School building. Mr. Detwiler said the Riverside Task Force has said maintenance of the grounds is going to be an issue. Shawn Cooper stated he had been involved in previous discussions with the task force, at which time he requested a copy of the plans. Mr. Cooper reported he has not received the plans and, at this point, Mr. Detwiler does not see any value in the Parks Department maintaining the grounds unless the academy can offer a trade for the use of indoor space.

Joe Stevens distributed a copy of an email he recently sent to City Manager Kelly Arnold and City Council (See attached) regarding the recent Tiara Rado neighborhood meeting. Mr. Stevens reported the meeting was the result of a letter that was sent to the surrounding neighborhood that addressed the increasing level of unauthorized activity on the golf course. Joe Stevens stated a new home owner recently said that he would be happy to abide by the rules; however, he felt the City needs to effectively enforce the rules and regulations by citing unauthorized individuals who are using the golf course as a "park". Mr. Stevens said the new home owner met with his neighbors to express his concerns, and then later had his house egged. Joe Stevens stated the Pro Shop has received numerous complaints from golfers who are angry about paying their green fees, then having to stop play to wait for people, children, dogs, etc. to move off the course. Mr. Stevens said the neighborhood meeting was very civil and discussion was well received. Joe Stevens said approximately 2/3 of those in attendance approved the enforcement of the existing regulations. Mr. Stevens stated that as a City property, if the golf course were to allow the neighborhood to use the golf course as a "park", the Parks & Recreation Department would need to make it available to "all" of the City residents, not just the surrounding neighborhood. Joe Stevens requested the neighbors help Tiara Rado Golf Course by self policing the course and notifying the Parks & Recreation Department of any liability issues. Doug Thomason stated many of the neighbors said they were not completely aware of the rules and regulations and that they appreciated the reeducation process. Tom Dixon commended Joe Stevens for taking such a strong lead in trying to improve the long term results. Doug Thomason said Joe Stevens handled the situation perfectly, facilitating the meeting in an excellent manner. Bernie Goss echoed the compliments about Joe Stevens's professionalism when dealing with these types of situations.

Joe Stevens announced that Traci Altergott was recently promoted as the new Recreation Superintendent. Traci Altergott will be replacing Mari Steinbach, who moved to Anchorage, Alaska. Congratulations Traci! Mr. Stevens reported the Parks & Recreation Department will be recruiting nationwide for a new Recreation Supervisor. Reford Theobald asked about the status on the recruitment for the Two Rivers Convention Center Manager. Joe Stevens responded the Department is working with Searchwide, a recruiting company, stating there were a total of 30 applicants, in which 20 met the qualifications. Searchwide interviewed 10 of the applicants over the phone, and narrowed it down to 2 highly motivated candidates. Mr. Stevens said the difficulty is finding a good fit, as the goal is to find someone who plans to stay longer than a year. Joe Stevens stated Two Rivers Convention Center is trying to attract a top notch caliber Manager with an entry point salary may not be as attractive as it could be.

Traci Altergott reported the CPRA annual conference will be held in Grand Junction September 27-30, 2005 and that the association will be sending out personal invitations. Ms. Altergott stated Grand Junction has not hosted this conference since 1998. Joe Stevens said they plan to invite the Grand Junction Lions Club to the luncheon, as the CPRA intends to recognize organizations that have greatly impacted recreation in the state of Colorado. The Lions Club will be the recipient of a "Columbine Award".

Reford Theobald reported on a recent conversation he had with a representative from Mesa State College, who stated the college is interested in encouraging the attendance of children under 12 at the football games, and would like to admit them free of charge. The man said the college was frustrated with having to pay a head tax on free admissions. Don Hobbs responded the Parks & Recreation Department had not been approached with this concern prior to this year, and that

Athletic Director Nick Adams had just recently requested the Department amend the fee. Mr. Hobbs said he had discussed the issue with Joe Stevens and had both agreed it would not be a problem to adjust the fee for children under 12 to be admitted free of charge, provided they are accompanied by an adult. Don Hobbs stated he had recently called and left a message for Nick Adams, notifying him the fee would be administratively amended. Dennis Teeters stated the same agreement should be extended to the local high schools as well. Don Hobbs stated the same amendment would apply to School District #51.

Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda

No future agenda items were discussed

Item 8: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist