

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes September 15, 2005

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tom Dixon
Bernie Goss
Dennis Derrieux
Jack Neckels
David Detwiler

Board Members Absent:

Reford Theobald
Dennis Teeters
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

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

Guest:

Jim Shanks, Public Works

Item 2: Approve Minutes

David Detwiler moved to approve the August 18, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Jack Neckels seconded.

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

Item 3: Riverside Parkway / Las Colonias Park Master Plan

Jim Shanks, Public Works, gave a presentation on the Riverside Parkway project. (See attached) Mr. Shanks stated the Public Works Department has budgeted \$25,000 towards a new Las Colonias Park master plan, as the parkway project conflicts with portions of the existing master plan. Jim Shanks said the Public Works Department would need some input from the Parks & Recreation Department, as soon as possible (before spring 2006), regarding ideas of where the entrances to Las Colonias Park should be located, in order for the entrances to be incorporated in the Riverside Parkway plan. Shawn Cooper distributed copies of the current Las Colonias plan (See attached), requesting the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board start their discussions soon. Tom Dixon

requested the Las Colonias Master Plan discussion be listed as an agenda item for the October 20, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Item 4: Dog Park Update

Chairman Dixon confirmed the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members had received the amended dog park rules and regulations in the mail. Mr. Dixon asked for comments and or suggestions regarding the rules and regulations, there were none. Tom Dixon opened the meeting for comments from the public guests who were in attendance. Moby Hoefling (public guest) expressed concerns regarding the dog park, stating that if the new park would be the "only" dog park in the area, and if the City would be taking a "zero tolerance" approach once the park is developed, she felt the new park would not work, stating there are too many dogs for such a small area. Ms. Hoefling stated the dog park should be at least 5 acres, in order to accommodate the amount of usage it will receive. Moby Hoefling said that without a major water feature, (similar to the size of the ponds currently being used at Canyon View Park), the dog owners will most likely continue letting their dogs run off-leash and swim in the ponds across from the dog park, rather than using the dog park. Tom Dixon responded such off-leash incidents are already occurring, which is why the dog park is being developed. Wayne Reeder (public guest), who resides in Spanish Trail Subdivision (bordering the area now being used for junior football games), said he would like to share some of the observations he has made while walking through the park. Mr. Reeder said he estimates 60% of the dog owners have their dogs on a leash, and he often stops to thank them for having their dogs leashed. Wayne Reeder said he often approaches the people who do not have their dogs on leash, asking them to obey the laws, often receiving obscene comments in return. Mr. Reeder said he has heard many concerns regarding the new dog park, including: 1) people saying they do not feel they should be required to pick up after their dogs once inside the dog park, 2) complaints regarding the ponds at Canyon View Park no longer being available for training purposes (people expressing the water feature inside the park is not deep enough, not long enough, and does not have "good" water), 3) comments that the dog park is not going to be a sufficient size, etc. Wayne Reeder expressed the fewer rules the better, and that the rules had better be enforceable, as he would not be willing to volunteer to warn people of the regulations. Mr. Reeder said he expects the City to hire someone with authority to issue tickets and/or fine people who refuse to obey the rules. Allen Salter (public guest), who lives in Fountainhead Subdivision, stated he read about the dog park in the newspaper. Mr. Salter stated he also enjoys Canyon View Park, using the park to walk his dogs, and often cleans up after other people in the park. Mr. Salter discussed the many uses at Canyon View Park, including football, baseball, softball, soccer, etc. Tom Dixon asked Mr. Salter to discuss the facts only, due to time constraints. Mr. Salter said his tax funds contribute to the development and maintenance of the parks, and that he considers it a "sport" to walk his dogs in the park. Allen Salter continued by discussing the messes he has witnessed, which he said are often left behind by other user groups in the park (football, softball, picnics, etc.). Chairman Dixon closed the meeting for public comment. Tom Dixon asked the Board members for any additional questions or comments. Bernie Goss addressed Moby Hoefling, responding to her concern about there being too many dogs for one dog park. Mr. Goss stated the City had been in contact and communication with Mesa County, who is pursuing additional off-leash areas within the community. Bernie Goss said a water feature, in his opinion, is immaterial, stating that anyone who continues training their dogs in the ponds outside of the designated dog park will be subject to a fine. Mr. Goss said the Board has researched many dog parks, and that none of them offer water features or have had any problems with enforcement by not offering water features. Bernie Goss stated it appears only "breed specific" owners are

requesting a water feature. Moby Hoefling responded the difference is that the City is now "taking away" the use of the ponds which the dog owners have already grown accustomed to. David Detwiler stated the current off-leash uses are "illegal" and are causing an increasing safety issue in the parks. Mr. Detwiler said in order to address the issue; the first step is to provide another option that will allow the public the opportunity to obey the laws. David Detwiler said the City and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board were trying to "accommodate" the dog owners. Dennis Derrieux expressed he felt the dog owners, themselves, will take a tremendous amount of ownership in the park. Tom Dixon discussed the similarity of the dog park project to the past development of Westlake Skate Park. Mr. Dixon stated there were many concerns regarding the skate park during the planning stages, yet there were not near as many problems as originally anticipated once developed. Chairman Dixon stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Department has completed extensive research on dog parks, and are well aware of the broad usage at Canyon View Park. Allen Salter confirmed the location of the dog park, and then stated the area would be very noisy from the traffic on the highway. Mr. Salter also expressed concern over the water feature, due to the heavy sediment load in the pond. Bernie Goss responded the size of the pond was temporary, stating the City plans to enlarge the pond. Jack Neckels said he regrets the time is too limited to allow for additional public comment, said he appreciates the guests being good neighbors, however; in the interest of time, suggested moving on with the agenda. Mr. Neckels suggested the possibility of revisiting the dog park in six months, in order to discuss what "is" and "is not" working. Mr. Neckels stated the dog park is not a perfect solution, but is a good step that can be adjusted while moving forward. Tom Dixon suggested the follow-up meeting be held at the dog park location. Shawn Cooper reported the fencing bids came in last week, and that the City Manager had approved the bids. Mr. Cooper stated the fencing will start being installed as soon as next week. Shawn Cooper also discussed the upcoming "Dog Daze" event taking place on Sunday, September 18, 2005 at Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool. Mr. Cooper stated information on the dog park will be available to the public during the event, and that all proceeds will go towards the development of the dog park.

Item 5: CPRA Conference Update

Traci Altergott briefly reported on the success of obtaining over 65 exhibitors for this year's CPRA conference. Ms. Altergott stated both hotels downtown were already completely booked, along with 56 rooms at the Doubletree Hotel.

Item 6: Other Business

Bernie Goss briefly reported on a recent School District #51 meeting, in which artificial turf was discussed. Mr. Goss said artificial turf will most likely be the topic of upcoming conversations.

Tom Dixon asked about the storage of some materials he had recently seen at Paradise Hills Park. Don Hobbs responded the dirt/top soil Mr. Dixon was referring to was not Parks & Recreation's, and is on private property.

Tom Dixon discussed the function of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meetings, stating the meetings are not intended for the purpose of public hearings. Jack Neckels suggested having an agenda item each meeting, which would allow time for public comment. Bernie Goss agreed there should be a "Public Comment" agenda item, with a specific time allotment.

David Detwiler reported the Pear Park school has been moved to a new site. Mr. Detwiler said the new location may have potential for a park component.

Shawn Cooper requested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members avoid making any commitments/promises regarding additional water at the dog park site. Mr. Cooper stated he has been researching the possibility of enlarging the sediment pond, and his preliminary research is indicating there may not be a way to do so. Shawn Cooper stated if the Department wanted him to continue pursuing in that direction, he will need to involve a Hydraulic Engineer.

Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda

Tom Dixon stated he intended to invite City staff members, who are working on various projects throughout the City, to future Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meetings. Chairman Dixon said Tim Moore, Public Works, will be providing an update on the Horizon Drive Interchange project at the October 20, 2005 meeting. Mr. Dixon said he would also like to invite representatives from School District #51 to a future meeting, in hopes of discussing their long range plans, targets, etc.

Don Hobbs requested the Board members come 15-20 minutes early to the next Board meeting, in order to have their pictures taken for the next Winter/Spring Activity Guide.

Item 8: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist