

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes December 15, 2005

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Derrieux

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent
Larry Manchester, Recreation Supervisor
Emily Wright, Recreation Supervisor
Shon Birch, Recreation Coordinator
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Tim Seeberg, TRCC Manager

Guests:

Max Krey
Susan & Jim Nall

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Neckels moved to approve the November 17, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Reford Theobold seconded.

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

Item 3: Recognition of Susan & Jim Nall, and Max Krey

Reford Theobold was asked by Chairman Dixon to provide a brief background on the history of the development of West Lake Park. The process began with a series of neighborhood meetings, in which discussions took place regarding a possible location for a skateboard park. Several locations were discussed and eventually West Lake Park was selected.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members awarded Max Krey, and Susan & Jim Nall with recognition plaques, expressing appreciation for their hard work and dedication towards the development of West Lake Park. Mrs. Nall thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for the park, and said she really enjoys the park, as it has brought the neighborhood together by providing a place for the neighbors to get to know each other. Max Krey also thanked the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for the recognition and spoke on the success of the park.

Item 4: Introduction of New Parks & Recreation Employees

Traci Altergott introduced Emily Wright, who was recently hired as the new Recreation Supervisor. Ms. Altergott stated that Mrs. Wright previously worked for the Durango Community Recreation Center. Emily Wright is a native of Grand Junction, and is excited for the opportunity to move back home. Even though the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is not advisory to Two Rivers Convention Center/Avalon Theatre, Joe Stevens wanted to introduce Tim Seeberg, who was recently hired as the new Manager of Two Rivers Convention Center, because 100% of the Board members interact with Two Rivers Convention Center through service clubs and numerous special events throughout the year. Mr. Seeberg relocated to Grand Junction from San Diego. Prior to his time in California, Tim Seeberg worked as the Manager of a Convention Center in Tennessee. Welcome Emily and Tim!

Item 5: Meadow Gold Youth Basketball Contribution

Emily Wright distributed handouts illustrating the history of the Meadow Gold Dairies contributions. Meadow Gold Dairies has donated funds to the Parks & Recreation Department for the youth basketball program consistently since 1982. Mrs. Wright discussed the escalating costs of the youth basketball program, due to the continued growth of participation, and the rising costs of the shirts. Emily Wright stated the Parks & Recreation staff and Meadow Gold Dairies have been discussing the possibility of Meadow Gold increasing their current donation amount, in order to help offset growing costs. Mrs. Wright reported Meadow Gold Dairies has graciously agreed to increase their donation to \$8,300 per year. Joe Stevens expressed the Department's appreciation for Meadow Gold Dairies, and also discussed their interest in working with the Parks & Recreation Department on the upcoming activity center at Bookcliff Middle School.

Emily Wright reported the Recreation Division is planning to expand the youth basketball program to 2nd graders in the 2006 – 2007 basketball season. In addition, they also plan to implement a "Ball per Player" program, in which they hope to obtain sponsors willing to donate basketballs to every child who participates in the program.

Larry Manchester reported on the success of the "Chocolate Walk", which had over 70 participants this year. Mr. Manchester also discussed the upcoming "Candy Cane Hunt", and the "Holiday Lights Kool Kruise with 107.9". The Kool Kruise will be showing the movie "Elf" and will be providing transportation by Grand Valley Transit. Larry Manchester stated Kool Kruise does an excellent job of scouting out the neighborhoods prior to the event, to ensure the participants are seeing some of the best lights in town. Mr. Manchester also discussed the upcoming "Running in a Winter Wonderland" taking place on December 22, 2005, stating all families are encouraged to come out and participate in this "running only" event.

Item 6: Parks & Recreation Department Issues for 2006-2007

Joe Stevens discussed the top priorities for the Parks & Recreation Department in 2006/2007, including the Bookcliff Middle School project, in which the budget currently indicates City Council's support. Reford Theobald asked about the Avalon Theatre operations, noting that increased fiscal support for the Avalon has the potential to impact support for recreation and park programs. Mr. Stevens reported on the financial challenges of operating the Avalon Theatre, as it costs the Department approximately \$550 every time the theater opens its doors. Joe Stevens said the Cinema at the Avalon currently pays a \$36,000 maximum annual fee, and used the building 318 days in 2005, yet the Avalon's electric bill alone was over \$40,000. Mr. Stevens discussed the obstacles of working with such an antiquated facility, and said discussions are currently taking place to reach a new agreement with the DDA, Cinema at the Avalon, and the Avalon Foundation Board.

Joe Stevens reported City Council has requested to meet with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members to discuss future goals and objectives. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members expressed their desire to meet with the City Council to engage in such discussions.

Joe Stevens reported the Parks Improvement Advisory Board has recently requested a list of priorities with regards to the Stadium Master Plan. Tom Dixon asked if artificial turf was still being discussed, and if so, when the turf would be installed. Joe Stevens responded he is not in a position to commit to a timeframe regarding the turf, although he said he does not see it happening in 2006. Joe Stevens reported JUCO is ready to make a financial commitment to the master plan if School District #51 and Mesa State College were willing to do the same. David Detwiler asked if Mesa State College has been engaging in any commitment dialogue. Doug Thomason responded City Council is still pursuing financial partnerships, and that School District #51 has portrayed an attitude of extreme cooperation and is aware of the advantages of extending partnerships with the City.

Tom Dixon asked how City Council discussions have been going with the County regarding recreation partnerships. Doug Thomason said discussions are ongoing and that the County feels they do support a lot of the City programs through sales taxes. Councilman Thomason said the City Council has decided to leave the current Resident/Non-Resident fee structure in place for the next activity guide; however, discussions regarding changing the fee structure will continue and will be a part of the Board's joint meeting with City Council.

Item 7: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Goals & Objectives for 2006

Chairman Dixon requested the Board work to continue visualizing future opportunities, even though their path is somewhat predetermined. Bernie Goss stated the Parks Master Plan needs to be revisited/revised, due to changes involving the Riverside Parkway project. Joe Stevens reported an RFQ and RFP would be going out early 2006 for a Las Colonias Park Master Plan. David Detwiler asked if City Council was prepared to adopt a master plan for the park. Joe Stevens responded there are difficulties with any master plan, including the "chicken and the egg" question, as well as what the "shelf life" is of master plans. Mr. Stevens stated most people agree master plans are a necessity in order for property owners to be aware of what they will be living next to. Joe Stevens expressed the importance of recognizing master plans are not final, as they will often change over the years. Mr. Stevens said the Canyon View Park Master Plan

changed three times prior to the park's development. Joe Stevens stated master plans are required in order to apply for any GOCO funding.

Tom Dixon asked the Board to review the comprehensive Parks Master Plan and be prepared for discussion at the January Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the various partnerships, including the very successful Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool partnership with School District #51. Joe Stevens reported the costs for the pool are shared 50/50, and that only one fee structure exists, since the County is a participating partner. Joe Stevens said the museum and the Botanical Gardens could also have an effect on the Los Colonias Master Plan. Reford Theobold briefly reported, as part of the Lion's Club 20th anniversary, they are also working towards a project that could have a major impact on the Los Colonias Park Master Plan.

Item 8: Correspondence

Joe Stevens distributed a copy of a letter sent to Don Hobbs from School District #51's Athletic Director, Steve Phillips (See attached). The letter is requesting the Parks & Recreation Department reduce the stadium seat tax from \$1.25 to \$1.00. Don Hobbs reported the seat tax had been in place for decades, and that the last increase was done in a quarter increment in hopes of making it easier on the people collecting admissions. Mr. Hobbs reviewed the reasons the School District was asking for the reduction. Don Hobbs disputed the fact that the City is currently collecting 100% of the concessions, as the Parks Division is still receiving the same percentage as when the concessions were ran by a private operator. Any revenues over and above a Parks Division baseline go to Two Rivers Convention Center, which operates concession and is the primary "risk taker". Mr. Hobbs reported the stadium operation has decreased from a 40% recovery down to a 31% recovery, projected over the next two years. Don Hobbs stated the Parks & Recreation Department would lose approximately \$8,900 per year, should they agree to decrease the seat tax. Mr. Hobbs stated, if the School District's request was granted, the college most likely will also request the same reduction, causing an additional loss of approximately \$5,000. Joe Stevens requested a recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Stevens asked if the Board would like the School District to present their request at the January Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Chairman Dixon said the people collecting the seat tax, as "paid" employees, should have to provide change, and that he did not feel the seat tax should be reduced. Dennis Teeters, stated that, although collecting the extra quarter probably slows down the lines, he did not feel it was necessary to reduce the fee. Reford Theobold said he was concerned that if the fee were reduced, it would be difficult to effectively implement increases in the future. Mr. Theobold suggested increasing the fee structure for the games, if the \$1.25 seat tax is too difficult to administer. Jack Neckels stated, regardless of what decision is made, sooner or later the fee will have to be paid. Mr. Neckels said he did not feel it was necessary to discuss the issue any further, and recommended the current fee remain in place.

Bernie Goss asked if anyone had received any input on the new dog park. Joe Stevens responded the dog park appears to be successful so far. Doug Thomason reported he had only received two comments to date, both of them being very positive. More activity and some special events will be scheduled for spring of 2006 at the new dog park.

Joe Stevens thanked Larry Manchester and Traci Altergott for their hard work co-chairing the 2005 CPRA conference. Mr. Stevens stated this year's conference received the highest marks

compared to the state CPRA conferences in the last 50 years. Joe Stevens also reported this year's conference generated more revenue than the last three conferences combined. Mr. Stevens commended Larry Manchester and Traci Altergott for such a successful event.

Joe Stevens announced Traci Altergott was the recipient of the City of Grand Junction's 2005 "Supervisor of the Year" award. Mr. Stevens said he appreciates all of Traci's hard work, stating the award was well deserved. Congratulations Traci!

Item 9: Other Business

Tom Dixon pointed out there has not been representation from the City Youth Council at the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meetings for the past six months. Traci Altergott stated the Youth Council has been in a transitional stage, and that they hope to start sending a representative to the Board meetings beginning in 2006. Traci Altergott also said the Youth Council is currently seeking volunteers to chaperone this year's New Year's Eve dance.

Item 10: Future Meetings Agenda

No additional agenda items were discussed

Item 11: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist