

## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes February 17, 2005**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 12:04 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present:                   Bernie Goss  
  Lenna Watson  
  Reford Theobold  
  Tom Dixon  
  David Detwiler  
  Dennis Derrieux  
  Cindy Enos-Martinez

Board Members Absent:                   Jack Neckels

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:   Joe Stevens, Director  
  Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
  Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
  Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent

### **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Tom Dixon moved to approve the January 20, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes.  
Lenna Watson seconded.

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

### **Item 3: Introduction of Jack Neckels, Newest Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Member**

Jack Neckels was unable to attend the meeting. This agenda item will be carried over to the March 17, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

### **Item 4: BLM Lunch Loop Update**

Joe Stevens reported on the BLM “lunch loop”, which has been in discussion for over seven years, and has previously included Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members, Keith Mumby, John Gormley, and Bob Cron. The “lunch loop” is 1,100 acres of urban interface land off of Monument Road, stretching South toward the Colorado National Monument and East to Little Park Road. This area is commonly referred to as the “lunch loop” because of its close and easy noon-time access for bikers, joggers, and nature appreciation. (It is estimated over 30,000 visitors per year

are utilizing the “lunch loop” area.) While the majority of land is owned by BLM, the trailhead and parking lot access points are owned by the City of Grand Junction. Mr. Stevens stated the City is supportive of working toward an intergovernmental agreement permitting BLM to manage the site, including the trailhead parking lots and contemplated restroom facilities. Joe Stevens stated it has also been mutually agreed that motorized vehicles will be prohibited from the “lunch loop” section of the Bang’s Canyon study area. BLM has submitted a draft agreement, which is currently being reviewed by the City Manager and City Attorney. Mr. Stevens has written a letter of support to BLM, stating the City of Grand Junction is pleased to support mutual efforts to preserve, maintain, and improve the Little Park parcel and the Monument Road trailhead.

Tom Dixon moved for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to support the “lunch loop” agreement between the City of Grand Junction and the Bureau of Land Management, providing the City is agreeable to the terms. Reford Theobald seconded.

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

#### **Item 5: Dedication of Wingate Park**

Joe Stevens reported the dedication of Wingate Park will be held on May 19, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. The school is estimating over 300 students and teachers will be in attendance. Mr. Stevens said the park project is still within budget, on schedule, and the plantings will be installed prior to the dedication. The only significant change from the original plan was due to the discovery that the irrigation pond would not be sufficient to service the entire park; therefore, crews plan to remove some cottonwood trees and enlarge the irrigation pond. Mr. Stevens reported the neighbors surrounding the park have been easy to work with, and, while not all of them are supportive of the park, many have expressed they are happy with the improvements.

#### **Item 6: Park/School Development Opportunities**

Joe Stevens reported on the current discussions taking place between School District #51 and the City of Grand Junction regarding the possibility of building extra gymnasium space along with the 2005-2006 school improvements. A recent analysis, completed by Mari Steinbach and the Recreation staff, indicates there is not enough indoor gymnasium space to accommodate the activities in our community. Mr. Stevens used “dodgeball” as an example of an increasingly popular activity, which began last fall with only 6 teams, and now has 24 teams registered for the spring season, with a number of games starting at 9:30 p.m. Joe Stevens said it has been extremely difficult to find gymnasium space for this, and many other activities, stating that additional gymnasium space in our community would most certainly be put to good use.

School District #51 is currently allowing the City of Grand Junction to review Pear Park and Bookcliff Middle School for additional gymnasium space, with the possibility of building middle school size gymnasiums versus elementary size gymnasiums. These two areas have a very high concentration of young growing families and could use the larger gymnasiums as community activity centers. The proposal for Bookcliff Middle School would double the gym space, as it would include an additional 10,000 sq. ft. gymnasium, as well as the potential use of the library, cafeteria, and music rooms for additional activities. Joe Stevens reported the Parks & Recreation staff recently drafted a proposal, which is currently being discussed with City Council and School District #51 board members. Mr. Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation Department has been

authorized to move forward with obtaining cost estimates for schematic designs. Once the cost estimates are received, City Council will make the determination whether or not to move on to the next stage. Cindy Enos-Martinez said the City Council is very supportive of pursuing these options, and that several Council members attended last week's School Board meeting, expressing their interest in partnering with School District #51 to increase community gymnasium space and to create additional neighborhood parks, in conjunction with the schools. Tom Dixon expressed his appreciation of City Council recognizing the need for such an important partnership. Mr. Dixon referred to the partnership the County and City made years ago regarding the Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool, stating there was a significant need in the community that the partnership successfully filled. David Detwiler stated a decision regarding the Pear Park area school would have to be made as soon as May or June, however, the decision for the Bookcliff Middle School site would not have to be made until later on, as the site will allow for a gym to be added at a later date if necessary. Lenna Watson asked if anyone has approached GOCO for assistance in funding the gymnasium projects. Joe Stevens replied the difficulty is that, per GOCO's guidelines, school districts are not eligible for GOCO funding. Mr. Stevens said that since this would be a partnership between School District #51 and the City of Grand Junction, as the City would have to be creative to garner GOCO support, due to the school district owning the property. Mr. Stevens stated if the City of Grand Junction decides to proceed with expanding gymnasium space, they will have to identify where the funding will come from ASAP. Joe Stevens stated there is currently \$480,000 in the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board budget for park development, and up to \$500,000 a year will be available from lottery proceeds and development impact fees once the Matchett property and improvements at Canyon View Park are paid for. Mr. Stevens stated the money can be raised over the long-term, however, recommendations are needed to raise the funds short-term. Cindy Enos-Martinez stated City Council plans to discuss this issue further at their February 28, 2005 meeting.

#### **Item 7: Correspondence**

Joe Stevens distributed a packet of information regarding the recent development of Paradise Hills Park. (See attached) The packet includes a letter of response to Mr. Clark Atkinson, in which Joe Stevens illustrates the level of time that was involved with the development decisions, including multiple presentations, on-site visits, socials, revisiting representatives, etc. Chairman Bernie Goss stated, in his opinion, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and City Council did due diligence, on multiple occasions, to ensure the Paradise Hills neighborhood was involved in the development process. Lenna Watson asked if any of the residents in the Paradise Hills neighborhood have ever applied for a position on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Tom Dixon agreed with Chairman Goss, stating that unfortunately, the Board will never be able to please 100% of the public.

#### **Item 8: Other Business**

Bernie Goss reported that he and Reford Theobald recently had the opportunity to experience the new sound system at Suplizio Field. Chairman Goss said they were very happy with the system and that it will be a real asset to the community. Mr. Theobald echoed Mr. Goss, stating that, although the system was expensive, it was very much needed.

Cindy Enos-Martinez briefly reported on City Council's upcoming discussions regarding the Bluff's West Subdivision and Burkey Park. Currently Burkey Park is not within the incorporated

City limits, however, Mrs. Enos-Martinez stated the City and County have come together to create incentives for neighborhoods to annex.

Bernie Goss asked about the status of the previously scheduled February 23, 2005 Parks Improvement Advisory Board and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board joint meeting. Joe Stevens stated the joint meeting has been cancelled, as City Council is scheduling a retreat to further discuss the Lincoln Park Master Plan before moving forward.

Reford Theobold reported he had recently met with the group who is interested in bringing the YMCA to Grand Junction. Mr. Theobold stated these discussions are still in the early stages.

Reford Theobold stated he recently discussed the Matchett property agreement, between the City of Grand Junction and School District #51, with Dan Robinson. Mr. Theobold said both parties still have the same understanding/perspective, which is that the City owns the majority of the property and can plan the park however desired, however; a total of 15 acres must be left open for a school site.

Joe Stevens asked Don Hobbs to provide an update regarding snow removal from the new track. Mr. Hobbs stated, prior to the installer declaring bankruptcy, he had asked whether or not snow removal damages the track. The installer's response was damage is not occurring to the track and that color runoff is "normal", regardless if it is due to rainfall or snow removal. Don Hobbs said the crews always use brooms to remove the snow and are very careful not to damage to track.

**Item 9: Future Meetings Agenda**

No future meeting agenda items were discussed.

**Item 10: Adjourn**

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist