

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes March 17, 2005

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 12:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Lenna Watson
David Detwiler
Dennis Derrieux
Cindy Enos-Martinez
Tom Dixon

Board Members Absent:

Jack Neckels
Reford Theobold

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Lisa Truong, City Youth Council

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Tom Dixon moved to approve the February 17, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Lena Watson seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

Item 3: Lincoln Park Master Plan Update

Joe Stevens stated City Council has given the direction for the Parks & Recreation staff to engage with Winston Associates to complete a final phase of the Lincoln Park Master Plan, which will incorporate portions of the Sink Combs Dethlefs study. Mr. Stevens said members of the City Council have expressed the desire for the "golf" aspect to remain in Lincoln Park, as long as it remains viable. Due to the City having to use general funds to complete capital improvements; the Lincoln Park Master Plan will have to be flexible, allowing for accommodation when funds are available. The revised plan will include the Barn remaining as is, the elimination of the loop road from 12th Street, the enlargement of the pool area, and the possibility to relocate the Pro Shop to

the current maintenance shop area, which would also provide the opportunity for the Recreation Division to relocate to the Pro Shop building.

Joe Stevens said several City Council members have expressed an interest in creating access from Lincoln Park to North Avenue. Mr. Stevens stated the difficulty in creating direct access to North Avenue is due to the Par 5 that currently runs the length of North Avenue. The consultants plan to provide cost estimates along with the revised plan, which will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and City Council. David Detwiler expressed his frustration that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was never really allowed to make a Lincoln Park Master Plan recommendation. Mr. Detwiler said decisions were made by City Council, without ever bringing the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board "back into the loop". Cindy Enos-Martinez responded she felt there may have been some confusion regarding the master plan, as it was often being confused with the "stadium" plan. Mrs. Enos-Martinez said the joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation and Parks Improvement Advisory Boards, at which the Boards unanimously passed a motion to proceed with the Lincoln Park Master Plan, was originally intended to bring the members together with regards to the "stadium". Cindy Enos-Martinez stated City Council has since decided to take a step back to review the necessity of a master plan. Mrs. Enos-Martinez said the remainder of Lincoln Park is currently being put on hold, as City Council does not feel it makes sense to move forward without the necessary funding. Mr. Detwiler said he does not agree with Council's decision, as the whole concept of "master plan" is to put a future plan in place. Cindy Enos-Martinez said that City Council is concerned about creating master plans, then having the plans be "shelved". Tom Dixon stated his original feelings to support the Lincoln Park Master Plan were also "detoured", due to the funds not being available. Dave Detwiler stated he would "agree to disagree" with regards to the decisions on the Lincoln Park Master Plan. Cindy Enos-Martinez said another reason Council's direction changed is due to the recent opportunity with the School District. Lenna Watson said she feels sorry for the Parks & Recreation staff for all of the hard work they have put into the master plan, just to see the plan not be implemented; however, she said at this point, the Board needs to support City Council's decision and move forward. Joe Stevens stated that the preferred master plan will focus on capital improvements that will need to be addressed over time, in Lincoln Park. It will also influence master plans for future parks.

Item 4: The City's Strategic Plan and the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Bernie Goss reported on a recent meeting with the strategic planning committee, consisting of himself, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Harry Butler, Bill McCurry, Dave Varley, Joe Stevens, and Shawn Cooper. The purpose of the meeting was to extensively discuss the Parks Master Plan and how to blend it in with City's Strategic Plan. Discussions included the prioritization of numerous properties, including Burkey, Saccomanno, and Horizon Parks. Joe Stevens stated the driving factor is currently the opportunity with the School District to develop gymnasium space in Pear Park and at Bookcliff Middle School. Mr. Stevens reported construction on the new gymnasiums is scheduled to begin this spring, with the openings scheduled for a year from August. Joe Stevens said the completion of the gymnasiums, without incurring debt, it going to require a lot of imagination and cooperation between the City and the School District. Mr. Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation staff identified this opportunity, knowing some projects will have to be deferred in order to take advantage of this situation. Cindy Enos-Martinez reported the planning committee worked to identify funds for the School District project by reprioritizing the current parks project list. The following is the revised list of priorities identified by the planning committee:

1. Replacement of irrigation system at Lincoln Park Golf Course – The committee felt this needs to be done immediately as the current system is on its last legs. An estimated \$10,000 must be set aside now for the cost of the design.
2. Pear Park – Construction of an enlarged gym and possibly a neighborhood park
3. Bookcliff Middle School – Construction of an additional middle school size gym. Cindy Enos-Martinez stated if the City does not act now, the opportunity may no longer be there, or would be at a much higher cost in the future.
4. Bluff's West Subdivision Neighborhood Park
5. Completion of Canyon View Park

Cindy Enos-Martinez stated these were the committee's top priorities, but the committee also discussed Burkey and Horizon Parks. Mrs. Enos-Martinez stated, with the lack of funding, it is impossible to develop entire parks; however, it may be possible to proceed with some minimal improvements, such as picnic tables, soft surface trails, signage, etc. Cindy Enos-Martinez stated the planning committee asked her to present the above priority list to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, in hopes of obtaining their thoughts and/or concerns, prior to taking the information to City Council. Lenna Watson asked where Saccomanno Park was on the prioritization list. Joe Stevens stated the development of the Saccomanno property was originally scheduled for 2007, however; it has been removed from the 10 year plan, in order to reallocate funds for the development of smaller neighborhood parks and, perhaps, the School District #51 gymnasium projects. Cindy Enos-Martinez said the Saccomanno property is over 30 acres and will require a considerable amount of funding to fully complete the park, so it made sense to postpone its development at this time. Cindy Enos-Martinez briefly discussed some issues regarding Horizon Park's development, stating City Council has received many "mixed messages" regarding Horizon Park's development. Comments have included e-mails from the public who support the development, as well as from those who do not want any changes made to the property, as they do not want to attract outsiders to their neighborhood.

Joe Stevens stated, within context of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), City Council has given their permission to move forward with gymnasium conceptual plans. Mr. Stevens said there will never be a better time to engage in this type of project based on cost, and should the City choose to defer the Bookcliff project for three years, the cost will increase 20-30%. David Detwiler agreed with Joe Stevens, although he felt Joe's figure of 20-30% may be too "low". Tom Dixon said he was very supportive of the gymnasium projects and encourages the idea of maximizing public funds by partnering with School District #51.

Tom Dixon said he does not feel any apologies need to be made for the expense of developing Canyon View Park, as the park is a "crown jewel" that has proven to be huge asset for Grand Junction. Mr. Dixon stated Canyon View Park is tremendously used by a large variety of the public and, therefore; should be higher on the priority list. Tom Dixon said, while he understands the need for developing Burkey Park, he has concerns as a majority of the Burkey area is still unincorporated. Mr. Dixon stated that, personally, he does not see Burkey Park as a big priority.

Dennis Derrieux stated he agrees that the Lincoln Park irrigation system should be a top priority and that the rare opportunity of completing the School District gymnasium project should also be a top priority. Mr. Derrieux said he does not see Bluff's West as a priority, agreeing with Tom Dixon that the completion of Canyon View Park should be a higher priority.

Bernie Goss stated he, personally, would like to see the following prioritization: 1) Lincoln Park irrigation, 2) Pear Park gym expansion, 3) Bookcliff Middle School gymnasium, 4) Pear Park neighborhood park development, and 5) Canyon View Park completion. Discussion ensued.

Tom Dixon moved to approve the following priority list:

- 1. Lincoln Park Golf Course irrigation system**
- 2. Pear Park gymnasium expansion**
- 3. Bookcliff Middle School gymnasium**
- 4. Pear Park neighborhood park development**
- 5. Canyon View Park completion**

Lenna Watson seconded the motion. David Detwiler stated he agrees with the above motion, however; he has a strong objection to the Lincoln Park irrigation system being listed as the number one priority.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 1

Bernie Goss reported dog parks were also discussed at the special committee meeting. Joe Stevens said he recently received an email from the Police Department, stating they have had complaints regarding off leash dogs in several of the City parks, not just Canyon View Park. City Council is also getting complaints from people who no longer want to go to Canyon View Park because of the unleashed dogs. Additional complaints included dog owners often getting upset and/or angry when asked to leash their dogs. The Board discussed the importance of strictly enforcing the leash ordinance if a dog park is developed. Bernie Goss said the City of Denver, upon developing official dog parks, increased the off leash fines from \$25 to \$125, which has proven to be a very successful change. Cindy Enos-Martinez stated the special committee discussed the remaining possibility of fencing off the area North of Canyon View Park, at a cost of approximately \$25,000. Tom Dixon asked if the City truly felt as though they owed the dog owners a place to take their dogs, stating there are currently many other places for dog owners to run their dogs. Mr. Dixon said he would not support funding an "expensive" dog park project, and should a dog park be developed, strict reinforcement would be crucial. Cindy Enos-Martinez asked about the level of liability the City has should a dog related incident occur. Joe Stevens responded the Colorado Immunity Law would offer some protection for the City in such a situation. Joe Stevens stated the City of Grand Junction is currently one of the metropolitan areas that has yet to offer designated dog park areas. Mr. Stevens said that, in the past, the City has always taken the position there is plenty of public land for dog owners to unleash their dogs, however; as the Grand Valley becomes more and more condensed, it is becoming difficult for the dog owners to conveniently find or take a trek to an open space. Joe Stevens said if the Board would like staff to put together a packet including cost estimates and a plan that could be done for developing a dog park, this project would need to be prioritized with other projects. Mr. Stevens said the costs of development could be included in the park upgrade funds, and that if the costs remained under \$25,000, it could be doable. Lenna Watson volunteered to talk to local vets and kennel clubs, in hopes of getting them to contribute towards the construction costs. Mrs. Watson asked Tressa Fisher to provide her with the contact information, stating she will pursue this issue further with the appropriate dog groups. Mari Steinbach reported she has been working with a

member of a large broadcasting company, in hopes of hosting a large dog event this fall. Ms. Steinbach stated the event could be used as a fund raiser for such a project.

Tom Dixon moved to support the Parks & Recreation staff in researching the possibilities and costs involved of developing a dog park, then bring the information to the Board for review. Lenna Watson seconded.

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

Tom Dixon briefly discussed a conversation he recently had with Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member Reford Theobald, regarding the possibility of creating a "Park District". Mr. Dixon stated some discussion regarding a Park District has also taken place with County Commissioner Tillie Bishop, who seems to favor the idea. Tom Dixon requested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board start examining the possibility of a Park District. Bernie Goss requested the "Park District" issue be listed on a future Parks & Recreation Advisory Board agenda. Chairman Goss stated this may be a good time to start this type of discussion, due to the upcoming turnover of City Council members.

Item 5: Appoint Liaison to the Commission on Arts and Culture

Bernie Goss reported Dennis Derrieux is currently the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's representative, however; Mr. Derrieux is finding it difficult to attend the meetings. Due to not all of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members being present, Chairman Goss requested this agenda item be tabled and moved to the April 21, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board agenda.

Mr. Goss reported the Commission on Arts and Culture has recently received a request from three City employees developing a plan to carve a dead tree stump, in Lincoln Park, as a voluntary arts project.

Lisa Truong reported the City Youth Council is losing their adult sponsor, Seth Hoffman, and are looking for a new sponsor. Ms. Truong also reported the Youth Council is in the process of starting recruitments for next year, as several of their current members are high school seniors.

Item 6: Correspondence

Bernie Goss commented on the newly installed baseball scoreboard. The scoreboard has been successfully installed and is already in operation. Joe Stevens reported the old scoreboard was donated to the Mesa State women's softball program.

Joe Stevens invited the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members to attend the Arbor Day luncheon on Thursday, April 14, 2005 in the Lincoln Park Barn.

Joe Stevens reported on the Lincoln Park-Moyer Pool splash pool. City Council approved the Parks & Recreation Department to proceed with the plans at the March 16, 2005 Council meeting. Mr. Stevens said the Department plans to get a picture of the splash ground designs in local newspapers as soon as possible.

Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda

- Dog Park
- Park District
- Appointment of Liaison to Commission on Arts and Culture
- Job Description of PRAB
- Possible lunch meeting with City Council in May or June to discuss Parks & Recreation Advisory Board role

Item 8: 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 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist