

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

April 21, 2005

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Goss at 11:59 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Bernie Goss
- Lenna Watson
- David Detwiler
- Dennis Derrieux
- Cindy Enos-Martinez
- Tom Dixon
- Jack Neckels
- Reford Theobold

Board Members Absent:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

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

Guests:

- Lisa Truong, City Youth Council
- Doug Thomason

Item 2: Approve Minutes

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

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

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

Bernie Goss introduced the newest member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Jack Neckels. Mr. Neckels said it was a pleasure to be selected and that he is looking forward to working with the Board. Jack Neckels provided information on his background, including his 40+ years of service with the National Parks Service. In addition, Mr. Neckels worked with the Planning Division of the State of North Dakota, and as a Supervisor at the Grand Tetons National Park. Jack Neckels stated he was impressed with amount of work the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board accomplishes and that he is anxious to contribute as a member of the Board.

Joe Stevens introduced newly elected City Council member Doug Thomason, who has been nominated to replace Cindy Enos-Martinez on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr.

Thomason said he appreciates the work the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has done and that he is excited to be a part of it and will be officially appointed by City Council on May 2, 2005.

Item 4: Master Plan Review

Bernie Goss reported on a meeting he and Cindy Enos-Martinez recently had with Ron Lappi and Joe Stevens to discuss the Parks Master Plan. The purpose of the meeting was to re-evaluate the original plan's tiers, reprioritizing the projects based on cash flow, budgetary impact, and the recent School District #51 bond issue. (See attached "Draft – Revised Master Plan" handout)

Cindy Enos-Martinez stated there were no longer plans for developing a park at Bookcliff Middle School. Joe Stevens said there is no land available for a park due to the school's physical education program requirements. Reford Theobald asked the reasoning for building a "second" gymnasium at Bookcliff Middle School, versus building a larger main gymnasium. David Detwiler stated that middle school gymnasiums are generally "internal" to the buildings, therefore; building one large gymnasium would require a complete redesign of the entire school. Shawn Cooper stated the concept of building a second external gymnasium allows the possibility of programming space during school hours as the location would be more isolated. Joe Stevens stated City Council has given their approval for the Parks & Recreation Department to proceed with the final design, construction documents, and bidding of the School District #51 gymnasium project. Cindy Enos-Martinez said that some members of City Council were not happy about the idea of only performing "minor" park upgrades at Burkey Park and Bluff's West. Mrs. Enos-Martinez stated City Council would rather complete an entire park, versus spending the funds at multiple parks with minimal results. Joe Stevens reported the bids for the restrooms at Duck Pond Park came in much higher than expected. A restroom building that cost \$85,000 a year ago now cost approximately \$155,000. Mr. Stevens stated the bids have been rejected, with hopes that better bids are available after the first round of School District #51 construction bids are awarded.

Joe Stevens reported on the Stadium Improvement Plan, stating that Bruce Hill had recently said unless local organizations stepped up and contributed towards the stadium, the City will be unable to apply for grants from El Pamar, GOCO, etc. Mr. Hill said if the City does not receive some substantial partners, the stadium will not be a priority in context of the CIP this fall. Mr. Stevens said that JUCO is very interested in contributing to the stadium. Joe Stevens also said Tim Mills, with School District #51, has recently said there will be a need for another high school in the near future, however; the School District is not currently considering building their own sports complex. Tim Mills said the School District is currently pretty inundated with projects, but acknowledges the importance of the stadium plan.

Bernie Goss encouraged the Board members to keep their draft copy of the Revised Master Plan close at hand, to use as a baseline for future questions, concerns, etc. regarding the priorities of the Parks Master Plan.

Item 5: Dog Park

Joe Stevens reported on the on-going dog park issue, stating he felt City Council is currently entertaining the idea of funding a dog park. Bernie Goss stated he had recently spent some time at Canyon View Park and personally counted 57 dogs, with a total of 32 dogs "off" leash. Lenna Watson reported she had been in contact with a couple of veterinarian offices and the Royce-Hurst Humane Society. Mrs. Watson also talked to Penny McCartney, Mesa County Animal Services, who said they are struggling with enforcing the leash law. (See attached letter) Ms. McCartney

stated the problem is related to the way the ordinance is written. The current ordinance states that if a dog is in training, it does not have to be on a leash. Lenna Watson asked the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board what direction they would like to go at this point. Cindy Enos-Martinez said if the Board would like to move forward with building a dog park, they need to do it “quick”, as City Council is currently willing to support a dog park effort, in order to try and solve the escalating problem. Mrs. Enos-Martinez said City Council has stated they will designate funds for the development of a dog park, as long as it does not exceed \$25,000. Joe Stevens said there are several issues to consider, including reviewing the wording of the current ordinance. Mr. Stevens stated he has also been in contact with Penny McCartney at Animal Control, who discussed a recent situation where an Animal Services Officer tried to cite an individual for having his dog off leash. The man said he “would not and could not” accept the citation. Tom Dixon described an incident he recently witnessed during a Mesa County Junior Football game, in which an unleashed dog lunged at a kid playing with a ball, causing him to fall and hit his head on the asphalt. Mr. Dixon expressed his concern, stating he feels a serious accident is just waiting to happen. Bernie Goss reported the County Commissioners are currently considering designating two unfenced park areas in which dogs would be allowed to run loose. Reford Theobald expressed the importance of increasing the enforcement once a dog park is developed. Cindy Enos-Martinez said the City Council members stated that if the City was going to start strictly enforcing the leash law, they must first provide a place for the dogs to go. Shawn Cooper distributed a map and cost estimates. (See attached) David Detwiler asked if the dog owners will be satisfied with the Canyon View Park location, as it does not have a water feature. Shawn Cooper reported the property being considered does have a settling pond, which is used for irrigation, however; it is only full of water during the summertime. Lenna Watson asked if there would be a way to expand the water feature if the funds were available. Joe Stevens responded, yes, if the funds were available. Currently the irrigation pond is only big enough for the dogs to wade in, but it is not a large pond like the one the dog owners are currently using. Reford Theobald suggested the dog park be done in phases, beginning with the \$25,000, and then possibly adding a water feature down the line when additional funds become available. Jack Neckels stated the bottom line should be “what the dog owners want and what do they want to commit to?” Tom Dixon stated that the City needs to inform the public that the City is going to provide a dog park, and with that the City will be increasing enforcement, due to the fact that the dog issues are out of hand. Shawn Cooper briefly discussed articles from other cities with dog parks, stating that the success and popularity of dog parks often catches cities off guard. Mr. Cooper said dog parks can often be detrimental, due to the fact that when you put 100 dogs into one area, it doesn’t take long to run down the surface. Shawn Cooper said it is often necessary to build multiple dog parks in order to reduce the volume of usage. Bernie Goss said he would like to wait to get John Shaver’s legal opinion then discuss the dog park issue further at the May Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Chairman Goss requested that Penny McCartney, Animal Services, be invited to the meeting. Joe Stevens thanked Lenna Watson for the research and follow-up she had provided.

Item 6: Appointment of Liaison to Commission on Arts and Culture

Bernie Goss stated that Dennis Derrieux’s workload is no longer enabling him to attend the Commission on Arts and Culture meetings. Reford Theobald volunteered to be the new liaison to the Commission on Arts and Culture effective immediately.

Bernie Goss reported the Arts Commission recently adopted artwork for the new splashground, from local artist Pat Olson. Mr. Goss said the sculpture selected is a very attractive piece made of heavy, single-paned metal. Shawn Cooper provided a brief update on the plans for using the

Lions Club logo in the new splashground. Unfortunately, the original idea of tiling the logo in the bottom of the splashpad is not going to work, due to the fact that water and sun will damage the tiles over time, and that the tiles are very slippery. Mr. Cooper stated he is now proposing to construct a concrete monument with the tiled logo, which would be located under the shade shelter to protect it from nature's elements.

Item 7: Correspondence

Lisa Truong, City Youth Council Representative, reported the Youth Council is currently preparing to send out recruitment applications for the upcoming council openings. (All applicants must be between the ages of 13 – 18.) Ms. Truong reported she plans to remain on the Council for another year.

Lisa Truong complimented the Parks & Recreation Department for the great job they did on the Arbor Day SouthWest Fest. Joe Stevens stated the festival was a tremendous success with a turnout of over 4,000 people. This year's Arbor Day celebrations included a delightful performance from "Elmer the Elm Tree", played by Dan Wiedrich. The Forestry Division has received numerous requests to take their "show on the road" for the elementary schools that were unable to attend this year's program.

Item 8: Future Meetings Agenda

Bernie Goss requested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members put together individual lists of items they feel should be included in the list of Board responsibilities. Bernie Goss stated the current ordinance is not real clear, therefore; he would like to create a master list which can be presented to City Council in hopes of clearly defining the role of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members.

Joe Stevens reminded the Board of the Wingate Park dedication ceremony, which will directly follow the May 19, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Reford Theobold briefly discussed a conversation he had at one of the middle school track meet, at which it came up in conversation that the track meets are often bogged down due to the size of the high jump pad. Mr. Theobold stated if the pad were extended, this would allow the track meets to set up two (2) high jump bars, enabling them to run the boys and girls high jump simultaneously. Reford Theobold also said the track meets currently aren't utilizing the Acutrack, instead they are relying on human reaction time. Mr. Theobold expressed his concern, stating that in a tight race, reaction times can often vary. Joe Stevens stated the School District has always been welcome to use the Acutrack, but cost is a concern.

Tom Dixon expressed his concern regarding the dugouts at Kronkright Field, stating there are games scheduled for the upcoming weekend, and there currently is not any shelter from the rain. Joe Stevens said he would follow-up prior to the weekend.

Bernie Goss complimented the Two Rivers Convention Center staff on their concession operations. Mr. Goss said the concessions have been open during most of the events and have provided timely and friendly customer service. The "real" test for Two Rivers Convention Center staff will be the JUCO season. The good news is that members of the Future Farmers of America have volunteered to assist in the concession stands during the JUCO tournament. Joe Stevens

stated there have not been any out of pocket capital costs for concessions to date, as most of the equipment has been donated from vendors in exchange for the sale of their products.

Item 9: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist