

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

August 15, 2002

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Lena Elliott
Dennis Derrieux
Dale Hollingsworth
Tom Dixon

Board Members Absent:

Bob Cron
Nora Hughes

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist

Jim Spehar, City Councilman

Invited Guests:

Lenna Watson, Co-Chair Riverfront Commission
Mark Gardner, Co-Chair Riverfront Commission

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Lena Elliott moved to approve the June 20, 2002 minutes. Dennis Derrieux seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Discussion with Riverfront Commission Representatives

Mark Gardner reported the Legacy grant to GOCO has been submitted. The local site visit will be on August 22, 2002 at Canyon View Park at 1:15 p.m. GOCO will visit all the local sites that have applied for grants, including Las Colonias and other facilities in Mesa County. The 15 – 20 minute presentation will be in Denver on Tuesday, August 27, 2002. The grant decision date will be in November 2002.

Joe Stevens reported the Las Colonias part of the grant was for the first phase, projecting between 8 – 15 acres, which would include the parking lot, entry way, signage, shade shelters, playground, etc. The request was for \$1.5 million, with the city contributing \$350,000. Lenna Watson stated that \$400,000 was already committed before the City was asked to match any funds from the Downtown Development Authority and the Riverfront Foundation. Joe Stevens expressed that he is very optimistic as Bob Cron and the Riverfront Commission have put together an extremely competitive application.

Lenna Watson recognized Jim Spehar for his hard work with this project.

Lena Elliott questioned if the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members knew exactly what expenses the funds would go towards if the grant is approved. Joe Stevens responded that the plan would come back to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members for review and recommendations prior to implementation. Lena Elliott stated she did not realize that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members had originally approved for funds to be taken from the CIP. Mrs. Elliott thought the Board was only agreeing to support the Riverfront Commission's intentions. Jim Spehar responded that the City chose to provide the match for the grant by decreasing the existing Parks & Recreation CIP budget versus waiting to see where the funds would come from. Mr. Spehar suggested that the entities involved should work to obtain a better coordination much earlier in the process to avoid similar cuts to the CIP. If the Legacy grant for Las Colonias Park is successful, CIP funding will be impacted in 2005.

Joe Stevens stated the Legacy grant involves numerous entities; however, the intent was never to diminish the role the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board plays in the decisions being made. Mr. Stevens then suggested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board consider appointing a "voting" member to the Riverfront Committee to increase the communication and awareness between the two entities. Lenna Watson requested Tom Dixon, should he be interested. Mr. Dixon agreed to consider it.

Tom Dixon questioned the Riverfront Commission's plans to address the new 2-person wide bicycle he recently witnessed on the trail. Should these grow in popularity, he felt they could become a safety issue. Lenna Watson responded that she had not yet seen one of these, and that currently there is not a width limit on the trails. However, the Riverfront Commission was approached recently by someone wanting to provide a Pedi-cab service along the trail and the Commission members denied the request due to the width of the cabs. Tom Dixon suggested that additional sections of the trail be striped to prevent accidents and increase user awareness.

Bernie Goss expressed the importance of all the individual entities maintaining a high level of communication throughout this, and any upcoming projects. Chairman Goss invited Lenna Watson and Mark Gardner to attend the December Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting to provide an update on the status of the Legacy grant application.

Item 4: Review Revised Canyon View Park Conceptual Plan

Ted Ciavonne reported he had made the changes requested from the July Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting, including re-labeling the football fields as "multi-purpose fields", shorter light poles for the tennis courts as well as stronger landscaping around the tennis complex. The conceptual plan will be presented to City Council on Monday, August 19, 2002 at approximately 8:15 p.m. Mr. Ciavonne reported they are not quite ready to present the final costs at this time. He stated the numbers are coming in higher than the cost of phase 1 due to phase 2 consisting of more expensive acres such as the tennis complex, restrooms and playground in contrast to open fields and turf.

The presentation to City Council is to update them on the conceptual plan changes since the original master plan and to make sure Council concurs with the recommended direction of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Stevens stated that once the cost estimates are

obtained, they will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board along with a breakdown that lists required improvements and a list of project elements that the Board members will have to prioritize in the context of budgetary constraints. Jim Spehar stated that the Council is well aware that funds are not available to complete the entire phase and that the presentation would strictly be for concept approval.

Joe Stevens encouraged all of the Board members to attend the City Council meeting. Mr. Stevens also reported the initial GOCO grant application for Canyon View Park is scheduled for the Wednesday, August 21, 2002 City Council workshop. If a grant is approved, the funds could be added to the existing authorized budget for Canyon View Park. Bernie Goss stated he may not be available to attend and may ask Dennis Derrieux to represent the Board as Vice-chair.

Item 5: Letter from Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chairperson

Bernie Goss stated that he and Dennis Derrieux wished to convey their appreciation for everyone's support. He explained that the recent letter to the Board members was in hopes of reminding them of the many tasks approaching and the importance of everyone zeroing in on park programs. Chairman Goss expressed that the focus needs to be on working closely with the Parks & Recreation staff and City Council in order to reach the same goals. He stated that there is a strong possibility of the Board continuing to break into subcommittees to accomplish more in the future.

Item 6: Correspondence

Bernie Goss reported there has been no response regarding the letter he sent to Board member Nora Hughes. Chairman Goss wrote the letter personally. It was not sent on behalf of the Board or the City. Discussion ensued. Dale Hollingsworth suggested the Board establish guidelines for Board member attendance. Tom Dixon responded that he thought similar guidelines already existed. Bernie Goss and Joe Stevens agreed to research and address the issue. Additional information will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Item 7: Other Business

Don Hobbs gave a brief update on the status of the new track. At this time, the black rubber surface has been laid and the red sealer is being applied. Three additional sealer coats will need to be applied on top. Completion is estimated for Wednesday, August 21 and then the striping will take place. Mr. Hobbs stated that although the project was delayed a few days due to rain storms both here and on the front range, the track should be far enough along to permit Mesa State's football scrimmage next Thursday. He reported the total cost is approximately \$335,000, with \$60,000 coming from the Parks Improvement Advisory Board.

Bernie Goss stated he has received several phone calls regarding an exercise group who use Sherwood Park early in the mornings. This group is not happy because the restrooms are locked. Don Hobbs reported the park restrooms are currently being locked after 10:00 p.m. and unlocked between 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. daily. This program was implemented in the spring and has significantly reduced vandalism and graffiti. Joe Stevens requested Bernie Goss to provide him with the group's information so he could contact the group to resolve the issue, as it may be possible to check-out a key to the group for the restroom facility.

Bernie Goss suggested head shot photos be taken of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members for future Activity Guides versus continuing to schedule group pictures.

Lena Elliott reported briefly on the huge success of the Taco Bell Tennis Tournament.

Lena Elliott also passed along the positive comments she had received regarding the service of the newly contracted food vendor (B & D Dawg Etc) at Canyon View, Kronkright, Columbine and Lincoln Parks.

Item 8: Adjourn

Bernie Goss asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Derrieux moved and Lena Elliott seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m. with a tour of the Lincoln Park track to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist