

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
June 20, 2002**

Item 1: Called to order by chairman Tillie Bishop 11:55 a.m.

Roll Call

Board members present:

Tillie Bishop
Bob Cron
Lena Elliott
Bernie Goss
Dale Hollingsworth

Board members absent:

Nora Hughes
Dennis Derrieux

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
Karen Peterson, Senior Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Jeanne Williams

Item 2: Approval of minutes

Dale Hollingsworth moved to approve the April 18, 2002 minutes and Bernie Goss seconded the motion.

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

Bob Cron moved to make an amendment to Item 2 (Las Colonias / Master Plan) of the May 30, 2002 special meeting minutes. The minutes reported Bob Cron as being “employed” by the Riverfront Commission when actually they should have stated he is “contracted” by the Riverfront Commission.

Dale Hollingsworth brought up the uncertainty of how a Board member should handle people or individuals that are directly involved with a project that is being brought to the Board for approval.

Don Hobbs stated City Council is currently reviewing the guidelines as they relate to Boards and Commissions. Dan Wilson is working on the issue with City Council and in the future will address the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for further discussion.

Bob Cron stated that he has been careful to let the Board know when he is wearing a different hat and believes the Board member should excuse themselves from voting.

Tillie Bishop stated the issue on conflict of interest needed to be discussed, with the major concern being the chance of personal financial gain. It was decided that if there comes a point and time someone should question their interest it may need to be addressed.

Bob Cron moved to approve the May 30, 2002 special meeting minutes after the above correction is made. Bernie Goss seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Rocky Mountain Open Committee

Tillie Bishop stated the Park Board asked Mike Knode from the Western Colorado Golf Foundation to attend the meeting with information on the status of the 2002 Rocky Mountain Open golf tournament and the change of sponsorship. Mike could not be present and Joe Stevens directed Travis Bunkelman to communicate the information on his behalf.

Travis passed around the new poster for the Rocky Mountain Open. In 1999, the Western Colorado Golf Foundation was formed and in 2000, the Foundation sponsored the RMO. In 2001, eleven scholarships were awarded and in 2002, eight scholarships have been awarded. Total scholarships after two years is \$20,000. The Foundation has taken back responsibility for RMO and the RMO is designated as an official fundraiser. Enstrom Candies is the new title and corporate sponsor for the RMO. Ryan, Whitney & Co. is marketing the RMO. The RMO has returned to the original format (Medal Play), having the final round to be played at Tiara Rado, leaving Lincoln Park available on Sunday.

Summary of Changes for 2002:

- Major sponsor is now Enstrom Candies
- For the past 6 years the tournament included:
 - Professional 54 hole stroke play
 - Amateur 54 hole stroke play
 - 36 hole four ball
- This year the four ball will no longer be a part of the tournament, the Western Colorado Golf Foundation has decided to remove it due to cost. It is a little more expensive to run the extra tournament involved because a lot of the entry fee would go toward the four ball.
- Another major change will be both the amateurs and professionals will finish the tournament at Tiara Rado. In the past, the professionals have always finished at Lincoln Park. They are still working out the details but they are planning to run tee times off #1 and #10 for about 2 hours then shut down for 2 hours then run them again for 2 hours. Travis's only concern is time frame, or if there are any weather delays that could cause problems finishing. Last year they made cuts down to the top 50 in ties with professionals and all the amateur play. This helped dramatically last year allowing the players to finish by 6:00 p.m. The Western Colorado Golf Foundation really wants to do this but as Travis stated, they are still having discussions.

The sponsorships are moving along rather well, they have the three different kinds of sponsorships, Eagle and the Ace sponsors are for \$550 and \$275. They seem to be doing well. Travis stated that the golf course doesn't have much to do with the tournament until they have completed everything and all their entries are in order

Bernie Goss added that he is on the scholarship screening committee and wanted to let everyone know that, from a different perspective, the Western Colorado Golf Foundation has done a great job in the last two years with scholarships by getting out of a political mess and into a wide open competition.

Travis concluded that it should go fairly smooth and that this is the oldest Pro-Am tournament in Colorado, currently at its 63rd year.

Item 4: Dog Park Presentation

Tillie Bishop introduced Jeannie Williams who was there to present the dog park concept. Mr. Bishop explained that this is not a new concept and has been discussed in the past, however, an area has not been designated and there currently aren't any policies in place for dealing with dog parks.

Shawn Cooper began by giving a brief overview along with a map of the city with a list of possible locations and different points for consideration of a dog park. The Parks and Recreation staff had discussed the idea of a dog park in the past, and it is now being brought up as a public interest. Mr. Cooper explained how a dog park creates a place for a dog to run and is typically a piece of city owned property that is completely fenced. It is a place where dog owners can take their dogs and allow them to be unleashed. A dog park can have obstacles, a training area or just flat native ground with only trees and native grass in a large fenced area. Dog parks have become popular in the larger metropolitan areas, where people can't let their dogs run anymore. Bob Cron added that he facilitated the Fairgrounds master plan, which includes a dog park, and requested the Board keep that in mind.

Jeanne Williams reported the largest benefit they have seen is with the handicap people being able to use the dog parks, allowing them the ability to take their dogs somewhere to let them interact with the owner and other dogs away from "work" and to play and just be a dog. Dog parks draw tourists and people who are actively looking for a destination or campgrounds with a place to take their dogs. Travelers being able to take their dogs to a dog park, without the leash, is a popular thing now. She stated dog parks are also great for the apartment dwellers that do not have a place to take their dogs, and that they help the environment. They help with responsible pet ownership not allowing their dogs run wild and they give the elderly a chance to take their dog someplace to run since they can not keep up with the dogs. Mrs. Williams and her husband Gordon will volunteer to raise the money for the fencing for the first park and would request the city to absorb the cost of installing drinking fountains for the public. If the Dog Park were split into two sections, one for small dogs and one for large dogs, there will be a need for water in both sections.

Shawn stated that most dog parks have been self-policed as far as the owners picking up after their dogs and making their dogs behave. Tillie Bishop noted that many questions remain, however, there is a lot of potential and he believes it is something that is needed in Grand Junction. He felt other communities with dog parks may be able to assist in answering questions regarding major problems and the costs involved. Mr. Bishop stated it might be through the volunteering of Jeanne and her husband, Gordon, and a few other people to take this on as a project. He asked Bob Cron to lead a sub committee with the support of Gordon, Jeanne or both of them with a few other interested people. Tillie Bishop then asked Shawn Cooper to contact Dennis Derrieux to see if he would be interested in working on the committee then to coordinate with Bob Cron.

Item 5: CIP Discussion

Lena Elliott asked about the GOGO Grant and what will need to be done to our CIP to get our \$350,000 funds for the match. Don Hobbs responded that the City Council agreed to match the \$350,000 towards the Legacy grant. Some reprioritization of the Capital Improvement budget over the next few years will be necessary. This may include some changes and modification in terms of prioritization for other capital park improvements.

Lena Elliott asked when the confirmation of the grant would be known. Bob Cron replied that they should hear something in November. He asked if there are any plans to try to leverage any of the park money since there is a small community GOCO grant cycle, which will be due in September. Shawn Cooper responded that the discussion has not yet taken place as to how Parks was going to approach this, however, typically Parks does apply for this grant.

Bob Cron informed the Board members there is \$75,000 coming from GOCO to be used toward the Riverside Park restrooms. Shawn Cooper responded that Canyon View would probably be the best choice but there are other projects they could use for the leverage.

Mr. Cooper then gave a presentation of the Canyon View masterplan concepts. The recommended program elements that came from the public meeting held regarding the park, which included some of the desired improvements and amenities. He handed out a list (See attached) and presented three proposed concepts. Shawn Cooper wanted to allow the full committee to look them over and provide feed back for him to pass along to the consultants and the sub-committee. Shawn Cooper intends to talk to Paul Kuhn in order to determine dates and will meet with the sub-committee.

Comments

- Great response to the covered shelters, playgrounds and spray park.
- Lena Elliott and Bernie Goss discouraged a dog park being put into Canyon View, stating there are other parks that would be a better fit. Lena Elliott suggested Horizon Park since it consists of open space and is located near hotels and visitors.
- Lena Elliott also discouraged a tot lot being located by the tennis courts. She expressed they are high maintenance due to the overflow of sand and playground material.

Item 6: Correspondence

Tillie Bishop informed the Board about the new appointments and/or changes of officers in July or August. Mr. Bishop has withdrawn his application for reappointment primarily because of his running for Mesa County Commissioner. Several Board members expressed their concerns regarding members of the Board being absent from meetings and not keeping up to speed with the issues.

Tillie Bishop was contacted by Charles R. Findlay, who is wanting to provide a small concession operation with a menu of hotdogs, dinner franks, brats and drinks for sports events in the parks and several of the ball field areas when the Park concessions are closed. Mr. Findlay also spoke with Don Hobbs and submitted a letter of request, which has been forwarded to Joe Stevens and is awaiting a response.

Item 7: Staff Reports

Don Hobbs reported the contractors started the track reconstruction on 6/20/02. The track is now closed and will remain closed through Labor Day. Signs have been posted notifying the public of the closure.

Lena Elliott asked if Parks was receiving any contributions from the School District for the track project or other projects outside of their PIAB contribution. Don Hobbs responded the contributions have been through PIAB only. Lena Elliott expressed her concern with the lack of contributions from all entities that are using the facilities. Tillie Bishop suggested he and Lena meet with Kelly Arnold to discuss the contributions from other entities.

Tillie Bishop requested a history of PIAB to be reviewed at the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Don Hobbs distributed personal information sheets for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board requesting each member to update their personal information and make corrections if necessary. This information was previously requested by the Parks and Recreation Chairman Tillie Bishop and Dale Hollingsworth.

Tillie Bishop stated that as of July 1, 2002 the City Council has agreed the Avalon Theater will come under the Parks and Recreation Department. The Avalon Theater will be subsidized for three years at \$100,000 per year. Bob Cron expressed the view that the Avalon Board needs to finish the renovation.

Shawn Cooper reported the Ridges tennis courts have been revamped, which included the filling, resealing and repainting of the cracks. This is becoming an annual maintenance item because of soil conditions the manner in which the courts were originally constructed.

Item 8: Other Business

Tillie Bishop discussed holding a sub-committee meeting on July 1, 2002, with the purpose of reviewing the Canyon View masterplan. Mr. Bishop requested Lena Elliott and Dale Hollingsworth to serve on a sub-committee to review the plan and present their thoughts and recommendations to the Board. The meeting is set for July 1, 2002 at 12:00 noon – at the Parks and Recreation Department Administration office. Following that meeting, Tillie Bishop would like to put together a joint meeting with the Riverfront Commission; reporting there are many things being talked about in the valley. Among the issues he wishes to discuss is the Riverside Parkway, which has a lot of potential of affecting the southern part of town. He suggested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meet with the Riverfront Commission and the Botanical Gardens. There are a couple different options being discussed, one is to go through the middle of Las Colonias and the other is to skirt it. All of this is going to have an impact on what will happen if that is still to be a part of the Parks system.

Bob Cron represents the Legacy Greenway project, which includes fifteen partners, one of them being the Riverfront Commission. He reported the Riverfront Commission expressed interest in meeting with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The contact person is now Mark Gardner, who has now taken Pat Kennedy's place as co-chair with Lena Watson.

The joint meeting date set for the Board's next regular meeting, at noon on August 15, 2002 at Two Rivers Convention Center. Bob Cron agreed to notify the Riverfront Commission Co-Chairs and members of the Legacy team he felt should attend the special meeting. Shawn Cooper will obtain up to date information before the meeting. Bob Cron expressed his concern regarding how the meeting will be handled. Lena Elliott expressed her concern that waiting a month might be too long, so she suggested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board send a letter to City Council.

Tillie Bishop asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lena Elliott moved and the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:55 p.m.