

## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes May 18, 2006**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 12:00 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present: Tom Dixon  
Bernie Goss  
Jack Neckels  
Reford Theobold  
Dennis Teeters  
Dennis Derrieux  
David Detwiler  
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent  
Emily Wright, Recreation Supervisor  
Stacy Pike, Recreation Coordinator

City Council Members Present:

Guests: Melody Maitland, City Youth Council  
Lauren Annino

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

Reford Theobold moved to approve the April 20, 2006 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Jack Neckels seconded.

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

### **Item 3: Bookcliff Activity Center Presentation – Stacy Pike**

Stacy Pike, Recreation Coordinator, reported on the upcoming Bookcliff Activity Center. Mrs. Pike said the Parks & Recreation Department put together a short commercial that will be broadcasted at Bookcliff Middle School. The commercial will show on "channel one", an informational/news channel the kids watch during school hours. Stacy Pike stated the Recreation Department intends to air the commercial at additional schools this fall. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members viewed the commercial.

Stacy Pike also showed a PowerPoint presentation, which was a brief overview of what types of programming the new facility will offer. Mrs. Pike stated the Bookcliff Activity Center will be much more than a gymnasium and will be used for many purposes, such as a before/after school program, arts and culture activities, enrichment programs, tutoring, fitness classes, preschool programs, special events, teen activities, family activities, etc. The athletic programs will include several drop-in programs, including volleyball and basketball. In addition, the Recreation Department has had discussions with the School District regarding the possibility of offering intramural leagues. The School District reported they often have over 300 middle school kids go out for each sport, and since middle schools do not turn away any child who wants to participate, many of these children do not get much playing time. Stacy Pike reported that studies have shown approximately 70% of kids drop out of school sports by the age of 13 because they are not having fun.

The Bookcliff Activity Center will be approximately 10,000 square feet; however, the Recreation Department will also be programming for the school's gymnasium, cafeteria, and library when school is not in session. Joe Stevens reported the Bookcliff Activity Center will be the only local middle school gymnasium with hard wood floors. Mr. Stevens briefly discussed the history of City/School District #51 partnerships, stating the Parks & Recreation Department decided to "piggy back" with the School District when they build new schools as a part of the recent bond issue. Reford Theobald stated the City has been interested in doing something like this for over 20 years; however, due to many of the schools being located outside of city limits and the fact that there were very few schools being built, this type of partnership was not an option until now. Melody Maitland stated she would be happy to volunteer to assist in a commercial for the high schools. Ms. Maitland expressed the high school kids are an essential part of the equation, as they are the ones that will most likely be driving the younger kids to the activity center. Joe Stevens stated the project is on schedule and he has been impressed with the contractors on this project. Stacy Pike reported the grand opening is tentatively scheduled for September 2006.

Reford Theobald reported the Arts and Culture Commission recently selected artwork for Bookcliff Activity Center and Pear Park. Traci Altergott stated there was representation from both schools at the selection meeting and that both parties are very excited about the selected artwork. Ms. Altergott said plaques will be placed at gyms to describe what the artwork is about, as they incorporate many aspects of the facility, not just the sports element. Traci Altergott stated the artwork will be made of very sturdy materials in order to decrease the chances of vandalism. Joe Stevens reported on some recent discussions/concerns regarding bond dollars being used to purchase the artwork. Mr. Stevens stated the artwork was purchased through the City's 1% for the Arts program, and that the City is very proud of their purchases. Traci Altergott stated the City's budget for artwork was \$12,000 at the Bookcliff Activity Center and \$5,000 at Pear Park.

#### **Item 4: Open Discussion on Future Park Development with City Council**

Chairman Dixon reported the City Council members were unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Dixon asked Doug Thomason whether or not the Council members were still interested in meeting with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Doug Thomason responded the City Council would still like to meet with the Board members, and suggested a workshop luncheon. Tom Dixon emphasized he wanted the meeting to occur while Bernie Goss is still a member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Doug Thomason stated it would be very difficult for City Council to schedule a workshop luncheon in such a short amount of time. The Board members agreed Bernie

Goss should be included in the workshop, whether or not he is still a member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Tom Dixon stated he will rely on Doug Thomason to report back to the Board when an appropriate date and time for the workshop has been determined.

**Item 5: Recreation Center – Lauren Annino**

Lauren Annino reported on her progress in pursuing a Recreation Center in the City of Grand Junction and provided a brief background of how and why she started out on this mission. Ms. Annino stated she has been working towards this goal for the past three or four months, and is hoping to create a vision for the community. She began this mission by researching and talking to numerous members of the community, including some County Commissioners and City Council representatives. Lauren Annino stated that, after a while, she began to feel she was spinning her wheels and decided she couldn't do it by herself. She then met with Kim Miller, a community member who is currently trying to bring a "Y" to the Grand Valley, in hopes of somehow combining their efforts. Ms. Annino said she was also introduced to Sally Schafer, Executive Director of Hilltop Community Resources, who is very interested in assisting with the project. Lauren Annino said Sally Schafer is an extremely organized and resourceful individual who knows how to get these types of projects moving forward, yet quickly expresses the importance of "patience". Lauren Annino said Sally Schafer has been a huge help, and has been working to put everything on paper, in order to give the project definition. Once the plan has been organized, the group will establish a committee and start moving forward. The group plans to hold their next strategic planning meeting at 1:30 p.m. on May 24, 2006 at the Chamber of Commerce. The meeting will consist of a few select community members. Lauren Annino stated she has also extended a meeting invitation to the owners of the local athletic clubs.

David Detwiler stated he was recently approached by Sally Schafer requesting his attendance at the strategic planning meetings and said, although he is unable to attend their next meeting, he intends to become involved with the group's efforts. Mr. Detwiler stated that, in addition to her assistance in coordinating the project, Sally Schafer has expressed an interest in contributing financially to the project. David Detwiler reported County Commissioner, Craig Meis recently mentioned the subject with him and indicated the County may also be interested in supporting a recreation center. Joe Stevens briefly discussed problems the last Recreation Center task force dealt with, including the difficulty of obtaining votes of the senior population who are living on a "fixed income". Reford Theobold said one of the challenges the new group faces is that they are basically "starting from a deficit", stating the majority of the voters do not like being asked twice for something they originally voted against. Mr. Theobold also discussed the importance of the group making an excellent "first impression" with the community. Bernie Goss and Dennis Derrieux volunteered to attend the strategic planning meetings. Jack Neckels thanked Lauren Annino for her attendance and encouraged her group to practice "patience" and back up it up with "persistence". The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board requested some guidance from City Council as to whether or not they should get involved with future planning meetings. Doug Thomason said, that while he can't speak for City Council, he personally feels there is a need for a recreation center in the Grand Valley, and that Lauren's group is heading down the right track. David Detwiler stated he would prefer to have a clear statement from City Council saying they encourage the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to actively pursue the implementation of a recreation center. Tom Dixon stated the recreation center issue was a good item to discuss during the City Council/Parks & Recreation Advisory Board workshop. David Detwiler expressed concern regarding the workshop not being scheduled soon enough, and that he would prefer to

have direction from City Council "sooner rather than later". Tom Dixon stated the Board needed to remain patient until they can formally meet with City Council.

Reford Theobold expressed concern over the public being upset that Grand Junction does not have a recreation center, even though much smaller communities do (Delta, Glenwood Springs, Durango, Cortez, etc.). Mr. Theobold stated the community needs to keep in mind that Grand Junction has a lot of other things the smaller communities do not (Examples: Stocker Stadium, Two Rivers Convention Center, and Canyon View Park). Bernie Goss also volunteered to attend the next recreation center meeting. Chairman Dixon asked David Detwiler, Dennis Derrieux, and Bernie Goss to provide an update at the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

### **Item 6: Correspondence**

Joe Stevens distributed a copy of a recent email regarding the dog park (See attached). Mr. Stevens said the email was another good example of a project the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was utilized to make a recommendation to City Council and the City had the capability of funding. Joe Stevens said the dog park has proven to be very successful. Traci Altergott said the "Friends of the Dog Park", which is a volunteer group currently consisting of eight members who serve as the eyes and ears at the dog park. Ms. Altergott said the group helps with clean up, assists with educating the public/users, etc. Traci Altergott said the group recently recommended the City fence an area within the dog park for the "small" dogs. Within 24 hours of the group sending an email requesting help with raising funds for the project, a check was received for \$1,500 to pay for the total cost of the fencing. Traci Altergott stated the group is very enthusiastic about the dog park, and says they very rarely receive complaints. Tom Dixon asked if people allowing their off leash dogs in and/or around the Canyon View Park ponds has stopped. Traci Altergott responded the issue of off leash dogs have not completely gone away, but have drastically reduced. Ms. Altergott reported the grand opening is being held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and encouraged the Board members to attend.

### **Item 7: Other Business**

Tom Dixon asked how the funds from the United States Tennis Association grant will be spent. Traci Altergott responded the funds will go towards a bench/shade shelter. Ms. Altergott stated one of the requirements of the grant is that the improvements have to be completed by October. Traci Altergott said she does not foresee any problems in meeting the deadline.

Traci Altergott reported the City Youth Council received eleven applications for the six council positions open. Ms. Altergott said the interviews will be held on Monday, May 22, 2006, and the council hopes to make their selections in the next couple of weeks. Jack Neckels asked if there was any way to involve the candidates that are not selected. Traci Altergott responded the candidates may be allowed to serve as "alternates". Melody Maitland said, in the past, the candidates who were not selected, were often asked to participate on subcommittees, meetings, etc., when the Council members were not available to attend.

Traci Altergott reported the 2006 Southwest Arbor Fest event was a big success, generating over \$4,900 for the Recreation Scholarship program. Ms. Altergott said Larry Manchester, who headed the event's committee, Emily Wright, and Shon Birch all did a phenomenal job coordinating this year's event.

Dennis Teeters reported the recent regional track meet hosted a total of 962 athletes, and held 179 races in just two days. Mr. Teeters complimented the Parks and Recreation staff for their excellent work assisting with the event. Dennis Teeters stated the event benefits the entire community, and generates a tremendous amount of revenue (lodging, meals, shopping, etc.). Mr. Teeters also discussed the on-going parking issue at Lincoln Park that occurs with every large event. Dennis Teeters expressed concern over the Barn being rented the day of the track meet, which, unfortunately, increased the parking issues. Joe Stevens stated the Barn will be secured in addition to the track meet next year, in order to prevent the Barn from being rented on the same day as the regional track meet. Mr. Stevens reported, on the same day as the track meet, a golfer was unable to find parking and parked in a no-parking zone. After several hours of golfing, the man returned to his car to find it had been towed, so he decided to drive the City's golf cart home. Mr. Teeters said he intends to work closely with the Police Department next year, in hopes of alleviating some of the parking issues.

#### **Item 8: Future Meetings Agenda**

Tom Dixon suggested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members consider having a special meeting with Ben Burkey, in order to meet with him a little sooner. Discussion ensued.

Lincoln Park Barn Insurance – Joe Stevens said he will provide the insurance information at the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Tom Dixon recommended the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board skip the July meeting due to busy summer schedules. Reford Theobald said, due to all the current issues being discussed, he does not recommend skipping a month.

#### **Item 9: Adjourn**

Tom Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Teeters moved and Bernie Goss seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist