

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes June 15, 2006

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 12:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tom Dixon
Bernie Goss
Jack Neckels
Dennis Derrieux

Board Members Absent:

Reford Theobald
David Detwiler
Dennis Teeters
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Ben Burkey

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Neckels moved to approve the May 18, 2006 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Bernie Goss seconded.

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

Item 3: Burkey Park – Ben Burkey

Ben Burkey distributed a draft plan for the development of Burkey Park. (See attached) Mr. Burkey discussed his proposed plan along with the possibility of relocating the alkali from the property to nearby contractor sites as fill dirt. Ben Burkey expressed his concerns regarding the site not being developed while he and several of his family members are still living. Mr. Burkey discussed his desire for a walking trail around the edge of the park with grass and trees and said he would prefer the entire park be fenced to prevent neighborhood kids from coming in at night. Joe Stevens stated the Parks Masterplan, created in 1994, included Burkey Park; however, the funding has not been available to develop the property. Tom Dixon asked when Mr. Burkey completed his drawing/plan was completed and if Mr. Burkey had any information regarding what the plan would cost if developed at today's prices. Ben Burkey replied the plan was originally designed in

1982 and the current cost of development would be approximately \$3.5 million. Tom Dixon stated the dilemma is still the "funding", and discussed the possibility of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board recommending to Council the option of pursuing company sponsorships for the development of City parks. Chairman Dixon asked Mr. Burkey if he had any suggestions of someone who might be interested in contributing towards the park's development. Ben Burkey responded the tax payers should pay for developing the park. Jack Neckels expressed his appreciation for the Burkey family's donation of the property, and said the "good news is that the land will be there for the kids and grandkids of tomorrow". Mr. Neckels asked Mr. Burkey what he would most like to see done if only "one" improvement could be funded. Mr. Burkey responded he'd like to see the dirt removed and replaced with better quality fill dirt and hedges planted around the picnic areas. Joe Stevens stated portions of Mr. Burkey's plan could be incorporated into the Parks Masterplan; however, without the funding, the City is not able to proceed. Mr. Stevens said it "may" be a possibility to do some small improvements, such as putting in a soft surface trail around the perimeter of the park. Bernie Goss said many of the City's parks have had to be developed in phases, due to funding constraints, and that it would be more realistic if the Burkey family requested the City to complete the park one piece at a time. Ben Burkey discussed the need for a City park in the Clifton area. Mr. Burkey said Clifton has highest crime rate in Mesa County and said that many of the Clifton residents would use a park. Mr. Burkey suggested the City sell the Burkey property and possibly purchase the property across from Grand Mesa Middle School (basically, relocating Burkey Park). Mr. Burkey stated he felt the voters would support the sale of the Burkey property, if they were made aware the City was planning to purchase another property for park development. Joe Stevens expressed he did not agree the residents in Oxbow Subdivision would support such a sale. Tom Dixon stated the Clifton residents have had the option to annex on several occasions and have chosen not to. Mr. Dixon said he does not feel the City is obligated to provide the Clifton area with park amenities. Jack Neckels stated the reality is the City won't be able to find \$3.5 million right away, but they may be able to start with some small dollar improvements. Tom Dixon said a soft trail would be a modest and safe improvement to the property. Chairman Dixon thanked Mr. Burkey for his time and assured the Burkey family they have not been forgotten.

Item 4: Park Tour Observations, Recommendations – Tom Dixon and Jack Neckels

Jack Neckels said the park tour was truly helpful and that he was amazed at how much park property the City owns. Mr. Neckels said he appreciates the fact that the City takes advantage of opportunities to purchase land, and said he has been a long time believer in the philosophy of "getting what you can when you can". Jack Neckels discussed the possibility of doing some smaller projects that would be less expensive, but still beneficial to the park properties. Tom Dixon said he had never seen the Burkey Park property prior to the tour, and said it was nice to see how large the site is. Joe Stevens stated if the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board agrees, he will direct staff to put together a plan for some minor improvements at the Burkey and Ridges sites. Mr. Stevens said the two areas could be excellent demonstration areas for utilizing volunteers, and perhaps gaining some public enthusiasm and/or political support. Joe Stevens discussed some of the obstacles of the Burkey property, including the amount of alkali on the South side of the property. Mr. Stevens said several minor improvements could be made to the Burkey site, such as a shade shelter, soft trail, possible disc golf course, and/or a dog park. Joe Stevens said a dog park would be a great way of getting the community talking about the Burkey property and could possibly increase the support for further improvements. Shawn Cooper stated trees and grass would be a huge improvement at both sites, unfortunately, the sites do not have irrigation. Mr.

Cooper said shelters, playgrounds, trails, etc. are fairly easy, but at some point, irrigation will have to be installed, which will drastically increase the overall cost.

Bernie Goss moved for the Parks & Recreation staff to begin exploring various options, for both the Burkey and Ridges properties, that would provide some fundamental improvements at a minimal cost. Jack Neckels seconded.

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

Dennis Derrieux reported he was recently approached by someone who was inquiring about the possibility of a BMX track being developed in the South area of West Lake Park. Shawn Cooper said BMX areas are fairly inexpensive to develop; however, the request would need to go to City Council, due to the impact it would have on the surrounding neighborhood. Discussion ensued regarding the County's BMX park. Mr. Cooper stated the County track is not getting much use, which could be due to it's secluded location and/or it's current restrictions (minimal time frames, required County attended use, etc.). Shawn Cooper said the majority of it's users are the same people who are currently maintaining the track. Shawn Cooper said he has heard the County's masterplan does not include the BMX track, and said it appears the County is trying to phase out the track. Joe Stevens stated it would be interesting to put up a "Future BMX Park" sign in the West Lake Park neighborhood to see what type of feedback is received.

Item 5: Report from Park & Facility Naming Subcommittee

Dennis Derrieux reported he had met with Jamie Hamilton regarding naming the Canyon View baseball field. Mr. Derrieux said JUCO does not have any issues and/or concerns with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board naming the baseball field after Gene Taylor. Joe Stevens said he would discuss the issue further with Doug Thomason. Chairman Dixon suggested the issue also be discussed at the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's joint luncheon with City Council.

Traci Altergott provided an update on the Bee Hive Park naming contest. Ms. Altergott reported, to date, she has received 31 entries. Tom Dixon requested the subcommittee (Bernie Goss, Dennis Derrieux, and Reford Theobold) review the entries then bring their top recommendations to the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Item 6: Lincoln Park Barn Insurance Requirements

Don Hobbs reported on the current insurance requirements for events held at the Lincoln Park Barn. (See attached) Mr. Hobbs stated public events, in which the public is invited or it is advertised with the intent of increasing public attendance currently require a \$1 million insurance policy. (Examples of public events include craft shows, public dances, gun shows, etc.) Nonpublic and/or private events do not require an insurance policy. Don Hobbs stated the Parks & Recreation Department generally does not waive the insurance requirement, and said it is usually fairly simple for most nonprofit organizations to obtain a policy, as the "parent" organization generally holds insurance and can add the specific event to their existing policy. In addition, the Parks & Recreation Department will occasionally reduce the rider requirements, should the nonprofit organization have difficulties affording the policy. Mr. Hobbs said if it is a "tame" event, it might be a possibility to reduce the fee, and that these types of requests are handled on a case by case basis. Don Hobbs said there is another avenue available, although it is not openly advertised,

which is the possibility of the nonprofit organization being allowed to use the City's CIRSA insurance policy. Mr. Hobbs said this option consists of a rather extensive application process and can be fairly timely (3-4 weeks); although it does offer an additional alternative should the cost remain an issue. Don Hobbs discussed the liability risks, stating dances are one of the highest liability events held in the Barn. Mr. Hobbs said, in addition to an insurance policy, dances are also required to provide security. Bernie Goss expressed he was very reluctant to change the insurance requirements, especially since there are several other options for nonprofit organizations to pursue if needed. Jack Neckels agreed with Bernie Goss, recommending the policy remain as is.

Item 7: Correspondence

Jack Neckels asked for an update on the Golden League Baseball group. Joe Stevens said nothing has happened yet, although there was a recent article in the newspaper that indicated community support. Mr. Stevens said the league would consist of very short seasons and, at this time, appears to be very doable. Joe Stevens said the Parks & Recreation Department would pursue the option further, should City Council direct them to do so.

Joe Stevens briefly discussed the upcoming 50th anniversary of JUCO. Mr. Stevens stated the only way to make the baseball field look good for the anniversary is to decrease the usage. Joe Stevens said Mesa State College is also concerned about the issue and is already having similar discussions. Tom Dixon discussed the importance of completing Canyon View Park baseball field, in order for it to be utilized as a venue for the bigger events.

Item 8: Other Business

Bernie Goss provided an update regarding the May 24, 2006 recreation center strategic planning meeting, stating there were approximately 40-50 people in attendance. Mr. Goss said the meeting consisted of a wide range of dynamics and partners, ranging from County Commissioners to private health club owners. Bernie Goss stated the concept received a very positive reaction from the attendees. Mr. Goss expressed that, while the planning committee is moving at a slow and steady pace, the project really appears to be gaining traction.

Joe Stevens reported Golf Pro, Travis Bunkelman, recently submitted his resignation. Mr. Bunkelman and his family are purchasing a local rental business. Joe Stevens said Travis Bunkelman has been very gracious when talking about his tenure with the City, and that the decision to resign was very difficult for him to make. Mr. Stevens complimented Travis's hard work and dedication, stating Travis took an operation that was struggling and turned it around. Joe Stevens also discussed the excellent customer service Travis has provided over the years, and said Travis will be missed dearly. Rob Stong has been appointed as the Interim Head Golf Pro. A farewell open house has been scheduled for Friday, June 23 at the Pinon Grill. Good Luck Travis!

Tom Dixon personally thanked Bernie Goss for his dedication and service to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Bernie Goss will be leaving the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, as his term is expiring and cannot be renewed due to the term limitation. Mr. Dixon stated Bernie Goss has been an outstanding board member and has served a vital function on the Board.

Item 9: Future Meetings Agenda

Naming Contest Recommendations

Chairman Dixon recommended skipping the July Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting due to summer vacations and busy schedules.

Bernie Goss moved to skip the July meeting. Dennis Derrieux seconded.

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

Item 10: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist