

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

August 24, 2006

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tom Dixon
Jack Neckels
Dennis Teeters
Dr. William Findlay
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

Lenna Watson
Dennis Derrieux
David Detwiler

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Reford Theobald
Bernie Goss
Melody Maitland, City Youth Council

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Neckels moved to approve the June 15, 2006 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dennis Teeters seconded.

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

Item 3: Introduction of Newly Appointed Members

Chairman Dixon introduced newly appointed Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member, Dr. William Findlay. Mr. Findlay stated he is excited to be appointed to the Board, as he has a personal love for recreation as a whole, and stated his children and grandchildren have been very involved in the City's recreation programs for many years. Mr. Findlay said he is interested in making sure Parks & Recreation programs continue to expand and improve. In addition, Bill Findlay stated his "professional" interest in serving on the Board is driven by the increasing health risks involved with lack of exercise, including obesity and diabetes. Dr. Findlay said he hopes to help combat the obesity problems and make our community a healthier place to live. *Welcome Mr. Findlay!*

Chairman Dixon reported Lenna Watson was also recently appointed to the Board; however, was unable to attend today's meeting. *Welcome Lenna Watson!*

Item 4: Election of Officers

Chairman Dixon opened the floor to nominations for Chair. Jack Neckels nominated Tom Dixon. Dennis Teeters seconded the nomination for Tom Dixon. There were no other nominations and nominations were closed. Tom Dixon was unanimously selected as the Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

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

Tom Dixon stated he was concerned regarding Board member, David Detwiler's lack of attendance. Mr. Dixon stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board ordinance states, should a Board member miss more than three consecutive meetings, the Board may ask for a reconsideration of appointment. Tom Dixon suggested Mr. Detwiler be contacted in order to determine whether or not he is still interested in serving on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The Board unanimously agreed the issue needed to be addressed with Mr. Detwiler. Tom Dixon volunteered to contact David Detwiler.

Chairman Dixon opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair. Dennis Teeters nominated Jack Neckels. Jack Neckels respectfully declined the nomination. Jack Neckels nominated Dennis Derrieux. There was not a second for Dennis Derrieux. Tom Dixon nominated Dennis Teeters. Jack Neckels seconded the nomination for Dennis Teeters. No additional nominations were discussed and nominations were closed. Dennis Teeters was unanimously selected as the Vice Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Outgoing Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Members

Tom Dixon recognized Reford Theobald for his commitment and dedication to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Chairman Dixon thanked Mr. Theobald and wished him the best of luck in his future endeavors. Tom Dixon also recognized Bernie Goss for his commitment and dedication to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Bernie Goss thanked the Board and briefly discussed the many great accomplishments that have taken place over the past years (with limited funds). Mr. Goss discussed several of the major projects that have come to fruition during his past six years, including Canyon View Park, Wingate Park, Two Rivers Convention Center, the splashpad at Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool, and the new irrigation system at Lincoln Park Golf Course. Bernie Goss commended the Board and the Parks & Recreation Department for all of their accomplishments, including the partnerships that have been developed with local organizations, such as Mesa County Junior Football Association and Grand Mesa Youth Soccer Association. Mr. Goss said it has been his pleasure to serve as a Board member and he looks forward to remaining involved in the future.

Joe Stevens announced that Jack Neckels is resigning from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, as he is moving out of City limits and will no longer be eligible to serve as a Board member. Jack Neckels stated he did not realize he would be moving when he first applied for

appointment on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Neckels thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as a Board member, stating that, even though it was short, his term has proven to be a very worthwhile experience. Jack Neckels also thanked Joe Stevens and the Park & Recreation staff for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Neckels told Joe Stevens he should be very proud of the Department's great staff and the Board, as they have "not missed a day" in providing for the citizens of the community. Chairman Dixon thanked Jack Neckels for sharing his ideas and positive feedback, stating Mr. Neckels has been a very valuable member.

Item 6: Long Park Presentation – Traci Altergott

Traci Altergott distributed a packet of information on Long Family Memorial Park and provided an overview of the various phases of development. Ms. Altergott reported Phase I has been completed, and Phase IV is scheduled for completion in 2008. Traci Altergott stated the final phase (Phase V), which consists of the skatepark area, is on hold until additional funding is either identified and/or donated.

Ms. Altergott reported the log cabin will be refurbished as a conference room for small meetings; the custodial care of the building will be provided by Mesa County. The shelters will all consist of fixed tables, concrete areas for additional grills, and electrical outlets that should allow for Bump n Jumps without blowing the electrical fuses. Traci Altergott stated, although the park will have a pond, the leash ordinance will be in effect at all times and that Mesa County Animal Services plans to actively issue citations if there are violations. Ms. Altergott reported the sand volleyball court will include "top of the line" sand, which is something the local volleyball players are very excited about. The park will also include a 1 ½ mile concrete and soft surface trail. All park maintenance will be performed by the County, who has hired one additional staff member. The County currently plans to contract out for the majority of the maintenance work. Mesa County will also handle all park emergencies. Traci Altergott reported the City will be responsible for all programming and shelter reservations, which will be handled the exact same way as the Parks & Recreation Department does now. All information will get communicated back to the County on a consistent basis. The grand opening date for Long Family Memorial Park has been scheduled for September 26, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

Doug Thomason asked if the soccer fields at Long Family Memorial Park will be programmed to alleviate some of the pressure at Canyon View Park. Traci Altergott responded the Parks & Recreation Department plans to move the men's competitive and men's recreational leagues to Long Park in order to allow the Canyon View Park fields a day of rest. Ms. Altergott stated the County granted Central High School practice permits for the new park; however, weekend use is still in discussion. Traci Altergott also reported GMYSA has expressed an interest in moving their developmental leagues from Chatfield Elementary to Long Family Memorial Park; no decision has been made at this time.

Doug Thomason asked if the sand volleyball courts will eliminate the need for additional courts at Canyon View Park. Joe Stevens said the sand volleyball courts at Canyon View Park are still agreeable with the masterplan, although the key will be the support from the volleyball organization who championed the courts. Mr. Stevens said the organization will need to bring a proposal to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and then to City Council. Traci Altergott reported, Mr. Duval, who was leading the volleyball court efforts, has moved out of state, which appears to have postponed the organization's efforts temporarily.

Joe Stevens discussed the ever growing amount of activities taking place at Canyon View Park, along with the resulting parking issues. Mr. Stevens reported the park remains extremely popular, stating there are 17 park shelters in the City's system and of those, 33% of the past year's rentals were at Canyon View Park. Doug Thomason discussed some recent VCB figures illustrating the economic impact for a weekend soccer tournament, which actually exceeds JUCO.

Tom Dixon expressed concern over the size of the soft surface trail at Canyon View Park, stating it is too narrow. Mr. Dixon said the trail is also depressed, causing the irrigation water to pool on the trail, which causes the trail to become soggy and discourages use. Tom Dixon stated he hopes the new trail at Long Family Memorial Park is wider and is not depressed.

Joe Stevens thanked Traci Altergott and staff for the amount of work they have put into helping the County plan for the new park.

Item 7: Recommended Names for Beehive Subdivision

Traci Altergott reported there were 32 recommendations received for the "Name the Park Contest" advertised in the Summer Activity Guide. Ms. Altergott stated that 1/3 of the entries revolved around the "Beehive" theme. Traci Altergott said only one Parks & Recreation Advisory Board committee member was able to attend the entry review meeting, and, at the time, recommended the name "Patriot". Discussion ensued regarding concern that the subdivision might attempt to take ownership as a "neighborhood" park, should the park be named something similar to the actual name of the subdivision. Joe Stevens reported, that the current name of the new subdivision has evolved from "Fuoco Estates", to "Beehive", and is currently marketed as the "Orchard".

Dr. William Findlay moved to propose the name "Honeycomb Park" to City Council for consideration as the new name for the park in the Orchard subdivision. Jack Neckels seconded.

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

Item 8: Update on Professional Baseball Prospects for Grand Junction

Joe Stevens reported city staff is currently working on a possible agreement with the Golden Baseball League, who is requesting to host semi-professional games in Grand Junction. Mr. Stevens said the California organization, consisting of three owners, has talked to several community leaders and Council has authorized continued dialog. Joe Stevens said the proposed season would include 25 home games beginning in 2007. Mr. Stevens stated there are still several issues to work through, including fees and charges, concessions, souvenir sales, and the possibility of alcohol (3.2 beer) sales. Joe Stevens reported the Golden Baseball League has also had conversations with Jamie Hamilton with regards to how their season would work with and/or around the JUCO season. Mr. Stevens stated, if the organization is willing to cover associated costs, and if they are able to work within existing agreements with Mesa State College, School District #51, etc., they may be in a position, within the next 45 days, to present a proposal to City Council for formal consideration. Joe Stevens stated since information was shared with the media, he has recently been approached by two other baseball organizations. Mr. Stevens stated there appears to not be a shortage in semi professional leagues interested in playing at Suplezio Field; however, the Golden Baseball League appear to be very organized and have the necessary funding

to support their efforts. Joe Stevens said GBL recently signed St. George Utah at Dixie College and is hoping to pair Grand Junction with them for the traveling schedule. The proposed season will start before JUCO; however, there would not be any home games held in Grand Junction until June and the season would end in late September. Dennis Teeters expressed concern that their proposed baseball season would conflict with football season. Joe Stevens stated the organization is aware of this conflict and have already agreed to work around a "black out" schedule. Tom Dixon discussed the lack of adequate baseball facilities in the Grand Valley and expressed concern that Lincoln Park is the only option for this type of venue, as long as Canyon View Park continues to remain a "non-revenue" complex. Mr. Dixon stated the City needs to consider finishing Canyon View Park, including turning the Canyon View Park baseball field into a revenue generator.

Reford Theobald briefly discussed the perception of past City Council members who, he said, felt minor league organizations drain the local resources without giving back to the community. Mr. Theobald expressed concern that a baseball league in Grand Junction may not be very successful as it may not be a "baseball" town. Reford Theobald said the baseball league should not compare themselves to JUCO, stating JUCO is only a week long/once a year event, and is considered more of a "social" gathering. Reford Theobald stated he worries the Golden Baseball League may have misunderstood the community wide support for baseball based on JUCO. Bernie Goss said he agrees, referring to the very poor attendance at the last Triple Crown Baseball Series, in which there were only seven people in the stands. Tom Dixon asked about the impact the games will have on the field. Joe Stevens responded it will be a major task to keep the field in the same condition the community has grown accustomed to.

Item 9: Correspondence

Joe Stevens called attention to the "Hey Neighbor!" article included in the August 2006 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board packets. Mr. Stevens briefly discussed the fact that Grand Junction is behind the growth with regards to impact fees, stating Grand Junction is collecting \$225 per household, compared to the \$2,600 per household that Castle Rock collects. Jack Neckels stated there needs to be an increased awareness and/or communication with regards to how important the parks/facilities are as "economic generators". Mr. Neckels suggested the Board pursue improving the communication of this message in the future.

Tom Dixon discussed the access to the canal road through Moonridge Falls Subdivision, in which the Grand Valley Canal Company has posted no trespassing signs on City property. Mr. Dixon asked if the City has a position on the signs being posted, and/or if there has been any efforts to persuade the canal companies to allow public access to canal roads. Doug Thomason responded the issue of canal access has not been a part of any recent City Council discussions. Joe Stevens stated that, while the property is City property, the canal companies have been getting permission to post the signs from the adjacent property owners. Mr. Stevens said City Council has not discussed the issue in a long time. Reford Theobald stated part of the reason for the lack of support for allowing public access was that the past City Manager was not openly supportive of the idea of using canal trails for recreational purposes. Shawn Cooper reported the Urban Trails Committee has been working on a test project for an area of the Grand Valley Irrigation Canal (South of G Road and West of 25 ½ Road). Tom Dixon expressed interest in moving forward with allowing public access on canal roads. Shawn Cooper encouraged Tom Dixon to contact Robert Traylor, a past Urban Trails Committee member who is also pursuing open access.

Item 10: Other Business

Melody Maitland reported on the City Youth Council's recent retreat at Gateway Canyons. Ms. Maitland said there are several new council members this year, and that the group is currently working on identifying their goals. Melody Maitland said the Council will soon begin preparing for the New Year's Eve Dance.

Traci Altergott provided an update on the Bookcliff Activity Center. The grand opening is scheduled for September 23, 2006 and will be in conjunction with the Parade of Schools event taking place from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. the same day

Traci Altergott also reported on the new Fall Activity Guide. The guide will be in the Daily Sentinel on Saturday, August 26, and will be mailed to all non-subscribers the week of August 28 – September 1, 2006. Ms. Altergott stated the Activity Guide continues to get better every year and commended Karen Peterson and Tressa Fisher for the excellent job they do putting the guide together.

Traci Altergott reported the fencing for the small dog area has now been installed at the Canyon View Dog Park. In addition, a second anonymous donation was received, in the amount of \$5,000 to be used towards drinking water at the dog park. Shawn Cooper reported on an Eagle Scout candidate, Matt Quick, who recently asked to get involved with the dog park and, with very little guidance, found a contractor, obtained donated materials, and is successfully having new shelters installed. Shawn Cooper said Mr. Quick has done an excellent job and now has two or three other Eagle Scouts interested in taking on additional projects at the dog park.

Joe Stevens reported the irrigation system at Lincoln Park Golf Course was approved by City Council last month; the installation will begin in September 2006. Mr. Stevens stated the company completing the installation is extremely experienced and plans to accomplish the job without major interruptions in play.

Item 11: Future Meetings Agenda**Item 12: Adjourn**

Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Teeters moved and Jack Neckels seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist