

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes September 21, 2006

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 12:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tom Dixon
Dennis Teeters
Dr. William Findlay
Lenna Watson

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Derrieux
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:

Melody Maitland, City Youth Council

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Dr. William Findlay moved to approve the August 24, 2006 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dennis Teeters seconded.

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

Item 3: Discussion about September 23, 2006 Grand Opening of Bookcliff Activity Center

Traci Altergott reported on the upcoming grand opening of the Bookcliff Activity Center, scheduled for September 23, 2006 from 11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Ms. Altergott said the event will be in conjunction with the School District #51's "Parade of Schools". The grand opening festivities will consist of a carnival theme, and will include numerous activities and a barbecue.

Traci Altergott briefly discussed the differences between the Bookcliff Activity Center and the Pear Park Elementary School contracts. Both facilities are similar in that all scheduling and/or any requests from outside user groups must go through the Parks & Recreation Department. Ms. Altergott reported on the fee structure, which was recently reviewed and agreed upon by School District #51 representatives, Tim Mills, Superintendent, and Dave Montoya, Director of Transportation, Grounds & Building Use. Ms. Altergott said the agreement states all fees received at Pear Park Elementary will be collected by the City's Parks & Recreation Department; however,

will be forwarded to and retained by School District #51. All fees received at Bookcliff Activity Center, for both gyms, will be collected and retained by the City of Grand Junction.

Joe Stevens stated the contracts are similar to the existing agreement with Wingate Elementary School, in which the School District has first priority during school hours and the City has first priority during all non-school hours. Traci Altergott reported the City is responsible for maintaining the grounds at both sites (Bookcliff Activity Center and Pear Park Elementary Schools). Ms. Altergott stated the utilities at Pear Park Elementary will be paid for by the School District and that the City will pay for the utilities related to the City owned gymnasium at Bookcliff Middle School (The School District will pay for the utilities associated with their gymnasium.)

Tom Dixon asked which organization will collect the fees for the Parks & Recreation Department's youth basketball program. Traci Altergott responded the fees are collected and retained by the City of Grand Junction and discussed the various partnerships with School District #51 that offset the cost of using their facilities for the basketball program.

Traci Altergott also discussed the School District #51's current four tiered fee system, stating the City's fee structure for the gymnasiums will remain similar to the fee structure currently being used for Lincoln Park Barn and/or Two Rivers Convention Center rentals. Joe Stevens stated Tim Mills has agreed to the City's proposed fee structure, as the new gymnasiums at Pear Park Elementary School and Bookcliff Activity Center are "premier" facilities with wood floors that are way beyond any of the other middle school or elementary gymnasiums.

Traci Altergott said the Recreation staff is working diligently to advertise the new activity center, utilizing TV, radio, schools, and the new marquee at 12th and North Avenue. Ms. Altergott stated the Recreation Division will also be offering free activities during the month of November in hopes of increasing awareness of what the new activity center has to offer. Joe Stevens stated Recreation staff members Traci Altergott, Emily Wright, and Stacy Pike have all done an excellent job with regards to the new facility.

Traci Altergott reported the Recreation Division has recently implemented a new "Early Release" program, which will be held on Wednesdays at Wingate, Pear Park, and Dos Rios Elementary Schools. The program provides after school recreational programs, including arts and crafts, sports, computers, language arts, etc. Ms. Altergott stated, since the program's implementation, other schools have been calling asking how they can get the Early Release program offered at their locations, and said the Principals at the three current schools have been extremely helpful, welcoming the program with open arms. Traci Altergott stated the Recreation Division is hoping to offer the program at 10 – 12 schools within the next couple of years.

Joe Stevens discussed the arrangements between School District #51 and the City, stating the current relationship takes the word "partnership" and "brings it to life". Mr. Stevens stated, with the next bond issue, the Parks & Recreation Department hopes to work much more closely with the School District, in hopes of avoiding some of the existing issues such as plant materials and energy efficiencies. Joe Stevens said an earlier involvement could prove to be more cost effective and would add significant value to the engineering process.

Item 4: Tour of Long Family Memorial Park

Shawn Cooper reported he has been involved with the Mesa County planning meetings for Long Family Memorial Park, which is being built in four phases. Traci Altergott stated the grand opening is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. and that the Recreation Division has already scheduled games for the very next day. Ms. Altergott reported the Central High School soccer games will be held at Long Park, and that the Central High School marching band has also been granted permission by the school to hold weekly practices on two of the fields. The Recreation Division also intends to move men's competitive soccer to Long Family Memorial Park, in order to allow a day of rest for the Canyon View fields.

Joe Stevens discussed the original planning process with the County, in which the County did not agree with the City's assessment of the maintenance costs. Mr. Stevens reported the County intends to contract out for the majority of the park maintenance and has agreed to keep the park at or above the standards currently maintained at Canyon View Park. Joe Stevens said the City's Parks & Recreation Department will be responsible for all scheduling of facility use. Traci Altergott stated all reservations will be handled exactly the same as the City's current park reservation process. Ms. Altergott said the fees and charges were also developed completely in line with the City's current fees and charges for facilities and fields. Traci Altergott discussed the plans for overflow parking, stating Central High School will open the East side entrances for major events.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board went on a walking tour of the Long Family Memorial Park.

Item 5: Other Business

Melody Maitland reported the City Youth Council is currently working with Stacy Pike on the Bookcliff Activity Center's Halloween Dance scheduled for October 28, 2006. Ms. Maitland also stated the Council is considering relocating the Teen Night event to the Bookcliff Activity Center in hopes of increasing the awareness of the new facility.

Item 6: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist