

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes October 19, 2006

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 12:03 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
Julie Stewart
Deany Hayes
Raisha Quinn

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Dennis Teeters moved to approve the September 21, 2006 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Lenna Watson seconded.

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

Tom Dixon announced Dennis Derrieux recently resigned from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board due to work obligations.

Dennis Teeters thanked Traci Altergott and the Recreation staff for the very well done Open House at Bookcliff Activity Center. Mr. Teeters said it is a great facility and that there was a really good turnout for the event.

Item 3: “Name the Park” Contest Winners

Traci Altergott reported there were a total of four winners from the “Name your Park” contest, all of whom entered the name “Honeycomb Park”. The name was submitted and formally adopted by City Council. Ms. Altergott introduced three of the four winners who were in attendance (Julie

Stewart, Deany Hayes, and Raisha Quinn) and presented them each with a \$100 Parks & Recreation gift certificate. Traci Altergott thanked the ladies for entering the contest and for their patience with the decision process.

Item 4: Los Colonias Park Master Plan Update

Shawn Cooper reported the City has contracted with EDAW, Inc. out of Ft. Collins, to develop a new master plan for the park. Mr. Cooper stated the original master plan was completed in 2001, yet will now have to be redone due to the Riverside Parkway project. Shawn Cooper said EDAW, Inc. will be holding several brainstorming sessions and public open houses on November 28 - 30 at Two Rivers Convention Center, in which the organization hopes to put together a rough draft of the new master plan. Mr. Cooper stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members are invited to attend any or all of the sessions. Joe Stevens stated the Parks and Recreation Department has been directed by City Council to work with Botanical Gardens on developing a proposal to help keep their organization viable. The garden's proximity to Las Colonias Park and the Riverfront Trail may influence the master plan. Mr. Stevens said the probability of the City having to get involved in some way may be necessary if the Botanical Gardens want to keep their doors open. Joe Stevens said there are several models currently being reviewed for the Botanical Gardens, such as the Senior Recreation Center and the Avalon Theatre. Dr Findlay said the Riverfront Commission has also remained involved with the planning process, especially for Las Colonias Park. Lenna Watson recommended including Ken Salazar and the Riverfront Commission in the planning process as well, stating they have both shown a very high interest in the riverfront trails. Tom Dixon stated he will attempt to attend as many of the planning sessions as possible and encouraged the Board members to also attend.

Item 5: Parks & Recreation Department CIP Review

Shawn Cooper reviewed the "Fund Code Summary of Capital Improvement Project Expenditures and Transfers" handout (see attached), and provided an update on the City's Capital Improvement Plan, stating all items of the CIP will be open for discussion next year. Joe Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation's CIP funding comes from two main sources, 1) lottery dollars, and 2) impact fees from development. Mr. Stevens said the impact fee in Grand Junction is currently \$225/dwelling compared to \$2,000-\$3,000 for many Front Range and other growing communities across the country. Joe Stevens stated there were discussions at the Fall CPRA conference which stated many cities are not collecting quick enough to accommodate the growth. Joe Stevens said staff will put together a list next year for the Board's review and prioritization. Joe Stevens discussed the 10% development impact fee and how the fee is often open to negotiation, as many developers are basing the fee on the value or 10% cost of the raw land versus donating property. Shawn Cooper stated he is attempting to get the ordinance amended in order to base the fee on "developed value" not the "raw" value of land. Tom Dixon suggested the Board recommend City Council pursue raising the impact fee, and stated the first step will need to be determining what the fee could/should be. Joe Stevens suggested the Board discuss the issue further and request direction at the next joint meeting with City Council.

Shawn Cooper discussed the high bids on the restrooms at Sherwood and Duck Pond Parks, stating each bid keeps coming back higher than the last. Mr. Cooper said the City is considering options of going with a prefabricated restroom contractor or having the staff do the majority of the construction in-house. Shawn Cooper reported the gymnasiums at Pear Park and Bookcliff

Activity Center have been completed. Lenna Watson asked about plans for Horizon Park. Shawn Cooper responded Horizon Park is one of the many parks included in the “major park development” category. Shawn Cooper discussed the differences in the cost increases and how the current prices are pushing back many of the projects.

Lenna Watson moved for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to reevaluate the impact fee structure. Dennis Teeters seconded.

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

Item 6: “Mortgage Burning” Celebration at Matchett Park

Joe Stevens reported the City of Grand Junction will be making their last payment on the Matchett Park property on December 1, 2006. The property was originally purchased by borrowing money from the Grand Junction Public Finance Corporation, for a total of \$2,000,700. Mr. Stevens stated that since the time of purchase, the property value has more than tripled. Joe Stevens asked if the Board would be interested in hosting some type of “mortgage burning” celebration, in which he suggested tractor and/or hay wagon tours of the property in hopes of generating some interest in the property’s development. Dr Findlay said he agreed it was a good idea, as it is important to celebrate accomplishments/successes whenever possible. Tom Dixon also agreed, saying the celebration is a great way to obtain media coverage on the proposed park. Lenna Watson suggested inviting Sally Matchett to the celebration.

Item 7: Correspondence

Joe Stevens briefly discussed a recent presentation given at a recent CPRA conference he attended in Keystone. The presentation covered the lack of opportunities for kids to engage in “organized play” and discussed how it is not necessary for adults to orchestrate every minute of a child’s day. Discussion ensued regarding the presentation handout that was included in the packets.

Item 8: Future Meetings Agenda

Dr. Findlay asked if there were going to be further discussions regarding public access on the canal banks. Tom Dixon stated the issue was currently on hold due, impart, to the vacancy of the City Manager position, and that the Board may wish to pursue the issue further after the first of the year.

Item 9: Other Business

Don Hobbs reported on the recent arrest that occurred at the Canyon View Dog Park. Mr. Hobbs stated there is a man who insists on allowing his dog to swim in the ponds, and has expressed he feels the pond inside the dog park is too “turbid” for his dog. The gentleman had already been sited once and was allowing his dog to swim in the pond when Mesa County Animal Control came to ask Parks & Recreation staff to appear and testify in court against the gentleman. The man saw the officer, ran into the Spanish Trails subdivision and hid in one of the backyards. The man was eventually found and sited for 1) having an off leash dog and 2) eluding a dog warden.

Item 10: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist