

## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes January 19, 2006**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 12:02 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent  
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner  
Kelly Arnold, City Manager

Guests: Melody Maitland, City Youth Council

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

Bernie Goss requested a correction be made to page four of the December 15, 2005 minutes, as there appears to have been a printing error. Bernie Goss moved to approve the December 15, 2005 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes once the correction has been made. Reford Theobold seconded.

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

### **Item 3: Introduction of City Youth Council Representative**

Traci Altergott introduced Melody Maitland, who is the new City Youth Council representative, who will be attending the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meetings on a regular basis. Ms. Maitland is currently a Junior at Central High School. Melody Maitland reported on the successful New Year's Eve dance at Two Rivers Convention Center, in which there were over 300 kids in attendance. The event raised over \$1,700 for the Parks & Recreation scholarship fund. Ms. Maitland also reported the City Youth Council is currently trying to promote "Teen Night", which is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Bistro, located in downtown Grand Junction.

**Item 4: Parks Master Plan**

Chairman Tom Dixon opened the floor for Board member comments and/or suggestions regarding the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan. Kelly Arnold briefly discussed the upcoming joint meeting with City Council and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, suggesting today's meeting pertain to the context of what the Board wants to discuss at the joint meeting. Tom Dixon stated the intent of today's Board meeting was to conduct an informal periodic review in order to make sure the Board is following the guidelines of the Master Plan. Joe Stevens discussed growth in the Grand Valley, along with the "tier one" facilities the comprehensive plan addresses, stating the Parks & Recreation Department has done a good job supporting varied development. Mr. Stevens discussed Canyon View Park development, stating much of the park's growth has resulted from having to "follow the money". Joe Stevens reported, due to the successful partnerships with GMYSA, JUCO, and Mesa County Jr. Football Association, the Parks and Recreation Department has recently been approached by the Grand Valley Volleyball Association who is requesting competitive volleyball courts at Canyon View Park. The volleyball courts would be less expensive than the currently planned water park, and would provide opportunities for large volleyball tournaments similar to the ones being held in Vail, Aspen, Boulder, etc. Mr. Stevens said the volleyball tournaments would take place in early spring and/or late fall, and would not directly conflict with the soccer or football seasons. Shawn Cooper reported David Ludlam, with the Grand Valley Volleyball Association, has stated he is positive they could bring in several volleyball tournaments per year, especially due to the milder weather in Grand Junction. The proposal consists of six volleyball courts, (possible two of them lighted), with an estimated total cost of \$70,000 - \$85,000. Shawn Cooper reported the volleyball option would cost considerably less than the splashground, including the completion of the parking lots, stating the small parking lot to the East would cost approximately \$130,000 - \$150,000 and the large lot to the South would cost approximately \$270,000 - \$290,000. Joe Stevens expressed the volleyball courts could be a nice addition to Canyon View Park, driving the park's focus as a "competitive sports complex". The additional volleyball courts would allow the volleyball group to consolidate their games and potentially increase the membership of their organization. Joe Stevens also stated the planned water park could easily be scaled back in size and relocated west of the current play structure, in front of the large shelter. Mr. Stevens briefly discussed the possibility of expanding the aquatics area at Lincoln Park, which could include a lazy river, etc. Mr. Stevens stated the volleyball option would require a revision to the Canyon View Master Plan, and could possibly be tied into tier one, allowing the Department to apply for GOCO grant money. Bernie Goss expressed the Parks & Recreation Department should really strive to "finish" projects (i.e.: Canyon View Park) before starting new projects. Tom Dixon agreed with Bernie Goss, expressing the importance of the City showing the public they are able to complete parks before building new ones. Chairman Dixon stated he would prefer to see Canyon View Park finished, even if it means altering the park's master plan. David Detwiler disagreed with Mr. Dixon and Mr. Goss, stating the Parks & Recreation Department needs to spend money somewhere else in the community other than at Canyon View Park. Mr. Detwiler stated many people in the community do not live around or visit Canyon View Park; therefore, the City should be trying to find a better balance by spending money in other areas. Bernie Goss disagreed with Mr. Detwiler, stating the City has been spending funds in other areas, including the new agreement for a gymnasium at Bookcliff Middle School. Dennis Derrioux stated he likes the volleyball concept, and asked what type of courts the group preferred. Traci Altergott responded the group is requesting sand courts for the competitive teams, while the noncompetitive teams will be able to play on the multipurpose fields. Reford Theobald asked what it would cost to complete Canyon View Park. Shawn Cooper responded it

would cost approximately \$240,000-\$250,000 to finish the tennis courts, another \$400,000 to finish the parking lots, and an additional \$100,000 to complete the landscaping (a total estimated cost of \$750,000). Dennis Teeters expressed his concern regarding the already overcrowded parking lots at Canyon View Park, stating there is currently a large amount of people parking in no parking zones. Tom Dixon stated many people are parking in nonparking lot areas just to be closer to their event, regardless of the fact that there are designated parking spaces available. Shawn Cooper stated the plan allows for an additional 106 spaces in the large parking lot, plus an additional 37 spaces in the small parking lot. Tom Dixon stated if the volleyball courts option is pursued, at some point, the City will need to consider additional concession stands. Shawn Cooper briefly discussed the possibility of pouring small concrete pads, which would allow for concession trailers, etc., and also mentioned the possibility of the organizations using the shelter for concessions. Jack Neckels asked if the time has come to amend the master plan for Canyon View Park. David Detwiler stated if the volleyball option were implemented, it would make one entire side of the park a “sports only” complex, and asked if the community would support such a change. Joe Stevens said, at this time, the Board is just throwing out ideas for future discussions, and may possibly need to invite public comment. Tom Dixon expressed that from a “land use” standpoint, Canyon View Park is an ideal location for the competitive sports component, due to the interstate access. Tom Dixon said the Board had not had an extensive discussion regarding Canyon View Park in quite some time, and said that he appreciates the new information. Chairman Dixon requested Joe Stevens invite representatives from the volleyball organization to attend the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Kelly Arnold voiced his concern about the Board members not discussing their plans for the joint meeting discussion with City Council and also recommended the Board be prepared to discuss the “resident/non-resident” issue at the joint meeting, stating City Council is expressing their interest to move forward with a one rate fee structure. Tom Dixon expressed his desire for City Council to take the initiative to discuss the elimination of the resident-nonresident issue, stating the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board had a very thorough discussion on the fees at the November 17, 2005 meeting, at which time they reached a unanimous vote. Joe Stevens discussed the current administrative nightmare with regards to the two tier fee structure. Mr. Stevens also discussed the potential difficulties of changing the fee structure, as the “resident” rate will have to be raised or the subsidy increased. Tom Dixon stated if the City is considering heading in the direction of a one fee structure, it might be a good time to go ahead and do so. Doug Thomason discussed recent figures presented to City Council by City Finance Director Ron Lappi, which indicate the sales tax revenues received from County residents are much higher than those from City residents.

Jack Neckels said the Comprehensive Master Plan appears to be very good; however, he felt there are some fairly serious areas that needed to be addressed, such as the riverfront areas. Mr. Neckels also expressed concern regarding the resident/nonresident fee structure, stating the bigger issue that needs to be addressed is the fact that the two government entities (City and County) are not working together with regards to recreational activities. Dennis Derrieux said the Parks & Recreation Department has been very good at using the master plan as a guide, but realizes the plan is not set in stone, and has made sure to take advantage of some great opportunities. Tom Dixon briefly discussed the implementation of the master plan projects, stating he feels the City, Department, and Board have all worked really well together towards meeting their objectives and goals.

Discussion ensued regarding the future of the Botanical Gardens, and the potential effect the facility may have on the Las Colonias Master Plan.

Shawn Cooper reported the Urban Trails Committee has requested to present information regarding a pilot program at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**Item 5: Future Meetings Agenda**  
Grand Valley Volleyball Organization  
Urban Trails Committee

**Item 6: Adjourn**

Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bernie Goss moved and Reford Theobald seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist