

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

April 20, 2006

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 12:10 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tom Dixon
Bernie Goss
Jack Neckels
Reford Theobald
Dennis Teeters
Dennis Derrieux
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

David Detwiler

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Vendegna, Forestry Supervisor
Larry Manchester, Recreation Supervisor

Guests:

Melody Maitland, City Youth Council

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bernie Goss moved to approve the March 23, 2006 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Jack Neckels seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 3: SouthWest Arbor Fest Program Overview

Larry Manchester reported on the 4th annual Southwest Arbor Fest celebrations scheduled for Saturday, April 22. Mr. Manchester stated the Southwest Arbor Fest will offer several new elements this year, including a phonebook recycling area in celebration of Earth Day. Participants will receive a \$1 off the price of the chili tasting if they bring in an old phonebook. Larry Manchester said this year's event will have many popular attractions, including the craft and food vendors, beer garden, Touch-a-Truck, farm animals, jalapeno eating contest, and live bands scheduled to play throughout the day. Mr. Manchester reported, as long as the weather cooperates, the event is estimated to host 3,000-5,000 people.

Mike Vendegna reported on the 2006 Arbor Day festivities. The school play was held just prior to today's Board meeting, with the return of the popular "Elmer the Tree". Mr. Vendegna stated 5th

graders from Pomona Elementary performed the animal speaking parts, and a representative from the Division of Wildlife assisted by playing the "Mamma Bear". Mr. Vendegna discussed the importance of educating the youth on tree care, stating the knowledge stays with the kids their whole life. Mike Vendegna reported he and his staff received numerous compliments from the teachers regarding the success of this year's activities, and the Forestry staff's ability to capture the children's attention. Over 400 school children were in attendance, along with representatives from Mesa County who are considering starting an Arbor Day program of their own. Mr. Vendegna stated the celebration would continue in conjunction with Saturday's Southwest Fest, with plans to give away over 2,800 seedling trees. Joe Stevens said, although he is not sure who receives the most enjoyment from the play (kids, teachers, or the Forestry staff), the activities have a huge impact on the youth. Mr. Stevens said he routinely encourages the entire Parks & Recreation Department staff to participate, as the Arbor Day celebration is a reflection on the Department and the City as a whole. Jack Neckels thanked the Forestry Division for the invitation and complimented Joe Stevens and staff on the fun and educational event.

Item 4: Report from Parks & Recreation Naming Subcommittee

Dennis Derrieux reported he had recently spoken with Jamie Hamilton regarding the possibility of renaming the Canyon View Park baseball field. Mr. Derrieux stated JUCO would like to continue the discussion at a future date. The subcommittee had no other report at this time. Joe Stevens reported the upcoming Summer Activity Guide will be announcing the naming contest for Bee Hive Park. The activity guide is scheduled for release on May 6, 2006; the deadline for the contest entries is June 16, 2006.

Item 5: Correspondence

Joe Stevens reported on the status of the fees and charges discussions, in which City Council and Mesa County representatives met to review the possibility of adopting a blended fee for all recreation programs and activities. Mr. Stevens said he reported the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board would be willing to support a single fee structure, should Mesa County agree to contribute funds to offset the revenue loss. Doug Thomason stated this option was not well received by the County, as the County expressed they were already subsidizing many other programs that "city" residents attend. Mr. Thomason reported the discussions with the County are still ongoing. Joe Stevens discussed the ongoing success of the Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool partnership between the City and County, in which both entities contribute to provide the same fee structure for both city and county residents. Jack Neckels said he urges City Council to continue the dialogue with the County, perhaps long enough to allow time for input from future County Commissioners. Doug Thomason said he would prefer to see a resolution/decision much sooner than later.

Item 6: Other Business

Reford Theobald asked for an update on Long's Family Memorial Park. Joe Stevens reported the City of Grand Junction has drafted an agreement that would be effective July 1 – December 31, 2006, in which the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department will be responsible for programming and administering all park activities (sporting events, shelter reservations, etc.). Mr. Stevens stated the County will remain responsible for all maintenance of the property and intends to contract the maintenance out to a 3rd party. The agreement states the standard of maintenance

must be equal to or better than the level of maintenance the City currently provides at Canyon View Park. Joe Stevens stated City staff had originally put together a cost proposal should the City provide park maintenance; however, the County stated they could not afford to pay the proposed amount. Discussion ensued regarding "urgent" requests for maintenance and whether or not the County will be able to adequately respond to such requests. Mr. Stevens reported the County is optimistic they can maintain the property at the required maintenance standards.

Tom Dixon asked for an update on the lunch loop. Joe Stevens stated the lunch loop agreement has been ongoing for years, originally starting with the Bangs Canyon study area. Mr. Stevens reported the area has seen a significant increase in usage, increasing approximately 100% in the last five years. Mr. Stevens said a draft agreement is still under review. Joe Stevens stated the difficulty in funding the proposed improvements (parking area, restrooms, signage, etc.) is that there is very little funding available in the CIP.

Melody Maitland reported the City Youth Council is currently recruiting for 2006-2007. Ms. Maitland discussed the upcoming "Flashlight Tag" event taking place on May 5, 2006, in which the Youth Council is still looking for volunteers to assist with the event. Melody Maitland also reported several of the Youth Council members will be volunteering at the March of Dimes event on April 29, 2006. Reford Theobold expressed concern regarding the Youth Councils process of selecting dates for appointment, and asked whether the dates are predetermined or scheduled on a random basis. Mr. Theobold stated his daughter had applied to serve on the Youth Council and was not selected as she was unable to attend on the date of the appointments. Traci Altergott reported the Fruita City Manager's Intern attended the last City Youth Council meeting, as Fruita is considering establishing a City Youth Council.

Bernie Goss briefly reported on the condition of Dan Cumming's deteriorating health. Mr. Goss stated the Board members may wish to pay Mr. Cummings a visit in the very near future. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dan Cummings and his family!

Chairman Dixon reminded the Board members of the park property tour, scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda

Tom Dixon asked Doug Thomason if the City Council has been informed they are invited to attend the May Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Doug Thomason stated the invitation has not yet been discussed, as several City Council members are on vacation. Tom Dixon stated the reason for the sense of urgency is due to the upcoming departure of Bernie Goss. Unfortunately, Mr. Goss will not be eligible for reappointment due to the term limitation policy. Mr. Dixon expressed he would prefer to conduct a joint meeting with the City Council members prior to Bernie Goss's departure as a Board member. Mr. Thomason said he would discuss the invitation with the Council and would have an answer by May 1, 2006.

Discussion ensued regarding Ben Burkey's request to be on an upcoming Parks & Recreation Advisory Board agenda. Joe Stevens reported Burkey Park was annexed into city limits a year ago. Mr. Stevens stated the property was given to the city approximately 30 years ago; however, the dilemma has been whether or not to develop the property into a city park, as the surrounding neighborhood are County residents who have not shown any interest in annexing. Chairman Dixon

stated, should City Council be available to attend the May Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting, he would prefer to defer the Burkey Park discussion to the June meeting.

Traci Altergott reported that Stacy Pike, the recently promoted Recreation Coordinator, would like to give a Bookcliff Activity Center presentation at the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Joe Stevens reported he would provide an update on the Lincoln Park Barn insurance requirements at the May meeting as well.

Item 8: Adjourn

Tom Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Reford Theobald moved and Dennis Derrieux seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist