

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
April 17, 2003**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Bernie Goss at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Lena Elliott
Bob Cron
Tom Dixon
Dale Hollingsworth
David Detwiler

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Derrieux

Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Executive Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Travis Bunkelman, Golf Professional
Doug Jones, Golf Course Superintendent
Allison Sarmo, Cultural Arts Coordinator

Guests:

Pamela Blythe, Arts Commission Chair
Joan Meyers, Arts Commission
Doug Clary, Arts Commission

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bob Cron moved to approve the March 6, 2003 minutes. David Detwiler seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Arts Commission

Allison Sarmo introduced Arts Commission Chair, Pamela Blythe, and members Joan Meyers and Doug Clary. Pamela Blythe thanked the Board for allowing the Commission to present. Ms. Blythe provided a brief background regarding the 1% dedicated to purchasing art, which is strictly from "building costs" and is not imposed on additional projects, such as Public Works street and sewer projects. Since the program started in 1997, the Arts Commission has purchased 11 pieces of art. Pamela Blythe expressed the Commission's appreciation for the opportunity to purchase public art. Currently, the Arts Commission is interested in purchasing a monumental piece to be installed at the East entrance of Canyon View Park. The Commission is contemplating a piece, like or similar to a sculpture by Colorado artist, Mark Leichliter. A picture was passed around of Mr. Leichliter's piece, which has already fabricated as a gateway piece in another city. The sculpture consists of 18 feet tall pieces that can be purchased individually (approximately \$15,000 each), allowing for additional pieces to be purchased as

funds become available. Lena Elliott questioned the sculpture being placed at the East entrance, as it is not the main entrance. Joe Stevens stated that the entrance on 24 Road was originally scheduled to have an interactive water feature, located where the volleyball courts are now, but due to funding constraints, the feature was not incorporated into the final design. Tom Dixon expressed that he would prefer to see funds spent on “interactive” artwork, since the art would be located in a park setting. Being from Portland, Oregon, Mr. Dixon has seen many examples of interactive pieces in city parks. Discussion Ensued.

Pamela Blythe requested the Arts Commission be able to participate with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board more closely during the early planning stages of future projects. The Commission would like to share their ideas with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and, in return, would like the Board to share their architectural and landscaping ideas. Bob Cron suggested the Arts Commission designate a member to attend the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meetings. Bernie Goss agreed and suggested the Commission provide representation on a quarterly basis.

Lena Elliott discussed the option of obtaining the bronze tennis player sculpture that was located on Main Street. Mrs. Elliott would like to see the sculpture purchased and installed at Canyon View Park in the tennis court area. She suggested the possibility of purchasing a smaller version if funding was not available for the original sculpture.

Pamela Blythe also provided a brief update on the status of the artwork to be installed at the new Riverside and Columbine Park restrooms. An RFP is currently out for both projects.

Item 4: Committee Appointment for Review of Possible Neighborhood Park Sites

Bernie Goss discussed the property tour that took place on April 3, 2003. Chairman Goss requested two volunteers in order to form a sub-committee to review additional sites for potential neighborhood parks. David Detwiler and Bob Cron volunteered to join Bernie Goss to form the sub-committee. The committee will contact Shawn Cooper to schedule additional tours throughout the summer.

Item 5: Irrigation and Water Utilization

Joe Stevens discussed the policies, procedures and guidelines for irrigation and water utilization. (See attached). The handout provides an overview of water conservation methods in the past, present, and plans for the future. Joe Stevens stated Parks was currently in “great shape” going into the summer. Mr. Stevens stated the Parks Division staff has been doing a good job taking advantage of new technologies and training, including sports turf management training, in order to conserve as much water as possible.

Item 6: Golf Course Operations / Overview

Joe Stevens distributed a “City of Grand Junction Golf Summary Sheet” for review. (See attached) In response to questions from Dale Hollingsworth, Doug Jones provided detailed information regarding golf operations. He discussed water conservation on the golf courses, stating that he goes around daily to both courses and checks the greens to determine the watering needs.

Mr. Jones shared financial information, stating that the only outstanding debt the golf course at Tiara Rado has is the clubhouse and the new driving range at Tiara Rado. The clubhouse

balance will be paid off this year and the driving range balance (\$39,651) will go through to 2014. A new debt, approximately \$70,000, will be accrued in 2003 for the replacement of the Lincoln Park Golf Course pump station. Doug Jones also explained the need for a new maintenance shop at Tiara Rado, as equipment is currently stored outside, exposed to the weather and open to vandalism.

Doug Jones continued with providing a brief background on the golf course fees. Since 1992, the City golf courses have imposed a 4% annual increase. The fees are evaluated and imposed on an annual basis to prevent a large increase every few years. Before implementation, all policy and procedure changes are subject to review by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and adopted by City Council, in the context of budgetary approvals.

Mr. Jones also discussed Tiara Rado's membership of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The existing natural habitat saves the course money as it does not have to be watered as often. In addition, the birds and bats eat a large number of bugs, reducing the need for pesticides.

Travis Bunkelman provided an overview on the pro shops, including inventory, carts and the driving range. Tiara Rado has greatly increased revenue with the addition of the new driving range. Currently there are 85 carts and the cart rates have not increased in the last 2 years. The rates are based on a state wide average, with the current rates being on the low side of the average. Mr. Bunkelman reported new merchandise has been purchased for both pro shops, in hopes to boost sales. Currently, the majority of the pro shop merchandise is sold due to tournament credits.

Lena Elliott complimented Travis Bunkelman and Doug Jones, stating they were both doing an incredible job. Mrs. Elliott thanked them and said she was pleased to see the "passion" they showed for the courses. **GOOD WORK TRAVIS & DOUG!**

Dale Hollingsworth questioned the possible removal of the Russian Olive trees and the reasoning for the drain trough being placed amid the Russian Olive trees. Doug Jones responded they need to keep some of the trees since it is a par 5. If all of the trees were removed, the hole would have to be changed to a par 4. However, the Russian Olives will slowly be removed as they die and will be replaced with something else. Mr. Jones also explained that the ditches were not originally intended for flood control, the intention was to get the water table and related salts out of there. This area was packed with tamarisks and they had a hard time growing grass on the 4th. The salty water in the ditch bed keeps other plants from growing underneath and does not have to be trimmed as often. Installing the ditch was the least expensive way to resolve the problem.

Discussion ensued regarding the stability of Lincoln Park Golf Course. Travis Bunkelman stated that over the years Tiara Rado has pretty much held it's own, although the numbers were down last year, in Grand Junction and state wide. However, Lincoln Park's numbers have continued to decrease each year. Mr. Bunkelman stated that very few people purchase 18-hole rounds at Lincoln Park and that 27-hole courses are becoming more and more popular every year. Dale Hollingsworth stated he felt that numbers at Lincoln Park will continue to decrease and suggested closing the golf course and building another somewhere else. Bob Cron questioned the cost involved in building an additional 9-hole course at Tiara Rado. Doug Jones responded it

would cost approximately \$1.6 million (\$200,000 per hole), emphasizing that a new maintenance building would have to be build first.

Item 7: Park Development Update – Board Update on Canyon View Park

Joe Stevens reported that 3 bids were received for the Canyon View Park cultural corner project. The good news is that the bids came in within the projected budget and engineer's estimates. WD Yards was the low bid. If Mr. Christenson, of WD Yards, obtains a general contractor's license, he will be awarded the bid. City Council has approved the project and things are moving forward.

The bids will be opened for East Canyon View Park on April 29, 2003. A joint meeting with City Council has been suggested for 7 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2003, in order to identify the funds still needed to complete the \$1.7 million project. Board members agreed the meeting was necessary and felt it would also benefit the newly elected City Council members.

Joe Stevens briefly discussed dog parks. There are currently 17 dog parks in the state of Colorado and approximately 12 of those are considered successful (Highly utilized, appreciated, etc.). Mr. Stevens shared a map of an area on River Road that may be a potential site for a dog park. This site is currently under review by a sub-committee of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and was also one of a number of stops on the recent park tour. The area consists of approximately 6 acres. Should the Board decide to pursue the idea further, they will have to prioritize the project within the CIP budget. Mr. Stevens reported it would cost approximately \$20,000, which would include the fresh water requirements. The Board members agreed that, although they are currently not "endorsing" the idea of a dog park, they would like to pursue the possibility.

Item 8: Other Business

Joe Stevens was pleased to announce that the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department has been selected as a finalist for the National Gold Medal Award. Mari Steinbach was responsible for completing the initial application, which Gene Taylor's sponsored on behalf of the National Sporting Goods Foundation. The next step in the process is for the Parks & Recreation Department to put together a 12 minute video highlighting everything the department has to offer and to submit copies of the comprehensive Parks & Recreation masterplan. The award category is based on the city's population and is a most competitive process through the National Recreation and Parks Association's 25,000 member organization.

Bernie Goss reported on the marble ring ceremony he attended on Monday, April 17, 2003. The ceremony was to celebrate the first official use of the three marble rings that were installed at Lincoln Park. The Mesa County Finals took place with 6 players ranging from 9 – 13 years old. Representatives of the media were present and Shawn Cooper was recognized by Colorado Marbles for assisting in the installation of the marble rings.

Lena Elliott reported she had attended the last Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting. The Board approved her request, agreeing to donate \$12,000 towards the tennis project at Grand Junction High School. Bids are currently out and the project should be started in May.

Joe Stevens reminded the Board members of the upcoming SouthWest and Arbor Day Fest taking place on Saturday, April 19, 2003, at Lincoln Park. Bob Cron informed the Board of the

Old Spanish Trail dedication/celebration, which is also taking place on Saturday. The trail celebration is being held at Eagle Rim Park.

Bob Cron reported that Iceskating Inc. has purchased a two acre site and is scheduled to break ground in May.

Lena Elliott reported on Two Rivers Convention Center. Mrs. Elliott stated Two Rivers Convention Center is doing very well, with January, February and March producing positive cash flow.

Item 9: Adjourn

Bernie Goss asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Cron moved and David Detwiler seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist