

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
June 19, 2003**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Bernie Goss at 11:03 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Lena Elliott
Dennis Derrieux
Tom Dixon
Dale Hollingsworth

Board Members Absent:

Bob Cron
David Detwiler

Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
Lynda Lovern, Recreation Supervisor

Guests Present:

Andy Barnard, Sink, Combs, Dethlefs Consultant
Gene Taylor, Gene Taylor's Sportsman's Supply Inc.
Pamela Blythe, Arts Commission
Lanton Kame, STARS
Don Lovern

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Tom Dixon moved to approve the May 15, 2003 minutes. Dale Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

Item 3: Lincoln Park Master Plan Discussion

Consultant Andy Barnard, of Sink, Combs, and Dethlefs was introduced. Mr. Barnard reported on the initial phase of the Lincoln Park master plan, which includes interviewing all of the stake holders in hopes of identifying issues and potential areas of improvement. Andy Barnard and Shawn Cooper have currently met with Bruce Hill, Jamie Hamilton, Buzz Schoenbeck, Mike McDermott, Harry Griff, Ron Wilson, Debra Bertrami and the Parks Improvement Advisory Board. They have also scheduled a meeting with Clarence Ross, Mesa State Athletic Director, and intend to schedule an open house for the general public. In addition, Mr. Barnard recently attended a JUCO game in order to see some of the issues "first-hand".

Andy Barnard distributed a hand-out listing the critical issues, opportunities and required improvements that were identified during the user interviews. (See Attached) The list of issues includes the overuse of the field/turf condition, lack of concessions on West side, foul ball containment, poor access from the North, sound buffering, parking, scheduling, lack of soccer, etc. Opportunities that were identified include the addition of more seating types, increasing ballpark capacity at the first baseline, improving circulation throughout shared use areas, creating a new venue for football, incorporating the barn into athletics complex uses, etc. Issues the interviewees identified as “required” improvements include upgrading the fields, additional toilet facilities, upgrading the scoreboards, additional concession points of sale, upgrading the sound system, improvement of pedestrian access/safety, parking improvements, etc.

Just prior to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting, Mr. Barnard and Shawn Cooper also met with members of the Parks & Recreation maintenance crews. In addition to issues already mentioned, the crew members identified concerns with the roof and leaking bleachers.

Andy Barnard requested additional discussion from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members. Lena Elliott stated her concern for installing a larger concession/kitchen area, as she does not feel there is a need for a “full service” concession area, given the large variety of restaurants on North Avenue. Discussion ensued regarding the need to increase concession points of sale. Andy Barnard responded the “general rule of thumb” is: 1 point of sale for every 500 people in attendance.

Lena Elliott also expressed her concern with including an amphitheater type area in the Lincoln Park master plan, stating the surrounding homeowners may not be happy with the additional noise. Mrs. Elliott recommended finding an alternative location for the proposed amphitheater, such as Las Colonias, rather than major modifications to Stocker Stadium or Suplezio Field for this purpose.

Bernie Goss questioned whether or not there were any issues involving the swimming pool. Mr. Barnard responded that currently there haven’t been any real issues raised regarding the pool or its concessions. The swimming pool will be addressed in detail during the second phase, along with golf and tennis.

Lena Elliott questioned the reason the master plan has been broken into phases versus looking at the entire park at once. Joe Stevens responded that originally the Parks Improvement Advisory Board contributed \$20,000 towards a plan for the stadium, with an emphasis on JUCO. During the budgetary process, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members identified the need to complete a “master plan” for the entire park. City Council has expressed support for a master plan and has given direction for the master plan to focus on park purposes only. Shawn Cooper stated that, perhaps, the current phase should be called a “short term improvement plan” versus an overall master plan. A 2nd phase will be requested in the 2004-2006 budget.

Andy Barnard stated that after the public meeting is held, the initial planning will take place. The information will then be brought back to, both, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks Improvement Advisory Board.

Item 4: Gold Medal Award Video

Joe Stevens began by recognizing Mari Steinbach for her hard work and dedication on the Gold Medal Award video. Mr. Stevens also thanked Gene Taylor, owner of Gene Taylor's Sportsman's Supply Inc., for providing the local sponsorship necessary for such a highly recognized award. Joe Stevens expressed his appreciation to Mr. Taylor, who has been a strong supporter of the Parks & Recreation Department and its programs for years.

Joe Stevens appointed Mari Steinbach and Don Hobbs as co-chairs of the video committee, which consisted of Allison Sarmo, Shawn Cooper, Mike Vendegna, Traci Altergott and Karen Peterson. The goal of the video was to represent the comprehensive programs and services provided by the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department. The greater challenge was to do so in less than 12 minutes. Joe Stevens stated the committee strived to incorporate members of the community, including Marshal Taylor, Jamie Hamilton, Janet Prell, Jim Robb, Greg Morrison and Lanton Kame. Joe Stevens also stated Grand Junction's video was the only video he has seen that filmed the local sponsor. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was duly impressed with the video and hoped every Council member might have an opportunity to view it too.

Item 5: Lynda Lovern's Retirement

Joe Stevens announced the retirement of Parks & Recreation Supervisor, Lynda Lovern. Mrs. Lovern will be retiring on June 30, 2003, after almost 33 years with Parks & Recreation. Bernie Goss presented Lynda Lovern with a plaque, recognizing her 3+ decades of service and dedication to the City of Grand Junction. In addition, Chairman Goss read a thank you letter from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Lynda Lovern thanked the Board, stated how much she has enjoyed her job and what a hard decision it was to retire. Congratulations Lynda!

Item 6: Comprehensive Master Plan / Neighborhood Park Discussion

Bernie Goss discussed the City Council work session that took place on May 19, 2003. During the session, Chairman Goss promised that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will start focusing on neighborhood parks. Joe Stevens reported the Parks & Recreation staff was currently in the process of preparing mailing lists for Darla Jean and Paradise Hills Parks. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board decided to host two "Open House" receptions to discuss the future development of the two parks. The Darla Jean Park reception will take place on Tuesday, July 1, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. and the reception for Paradise Hills Park will be on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. Invitations will be mailed to all residents living within ½ mile of the parks. Mr. Stevens stated he would also request representation from the Grand Junction Police Department.

In addition, a sub-committee, consisting of Bernie Goss, David Detwiler, Bob Cron, and Shawn Cooper, will schedule a time in the next couple of weeks to identify and visit potential neighborhood park sites.

Item 7: Other Business

Joe Stevens reported that park usage and Two Rivers Convention Center usage is up for the season, and golf course usage is encouraging.

Bernie Goss announced the resignation of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member, Tom Dixon. Mr. Dixon has accepted a position in Ft. Myers, Florida, and will be moving at the end of the month. Tom Dixon has been an active board member for the last year and will be missed. Good Luck Tom!

Lena Elliott distributed a handout (See Attached) and expressed her concern that City Council is not fully aware of the amount of money the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has spent on neighborhood parks in the last several years. Mrs. Elliott stated she has served on the Board since 1995, and with her departure, she plans to communicate what the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has done for neighborhood parks, and for the community, at the July 2, 2003 City Council meeting. Dale Hollingsworth responded that he agrees with Lena Elliott regarding the importance of reviewing the information with City Council.

Dale Hollingsworth questioned the reason for tamarisks at Tiara Rado Golf Course. Joe Stevens responded that, while Parks & Recreation is a part of the Tamarisk Coalition, the only plants that will grow in the high salt area at Tiara Rado are the tamarisks and Russian Olives. Currently the highest priority of the golf course is the health and safety of the golfers. Once the soil levels are high enough to support other plant material, the tamarisks will be replaced.

Item 8: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist