

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

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Bernie Goss at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Dennis Derrieux
Bob Cron
David Detwiler
Tom Fisher
Reford Theobold

Board Members Absent:

Dale Hollingsworth
Cindy Enos-Martinez (Ex-Officio)

Staff Present:

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

Guests Present:

Tillie Bishop, Mesa County Commissioner
Sue Gormely, Mesa County

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Tressa Fisher notified the Board the need for a correction in the June 19, 2003 minutes. Traci Altergott should have been included as a member of the Gold Medal Award video committee.

Bob Cron moved to approve the June 19, 2003 minutes after the above correction is made. Dennis Derrieux seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Welcome New Board Members

Welcome Tom Fisher and Reford Theobold! Introductions took place, along with a brief description of each Board member's background.

Bernie Goss reported Cindy Enos-Martinez would be attending future Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meetings, in efforts to increase communication between City Council and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Joe Stevens stated City Council has requested a luncheon meeting with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board in order to discuss plans for the upcoming year, including issues, priorities, capital improvements, areas of interest, policies and procedures, etc. The Board members agreed a

meeting on September 29, 2003 would work for them. Mr. Stevens stated he would confirm the information and report back to the Board.

Item 4: Election of Officers (Chairperson and Vice-Chair)

Joe Stevens opened the floor for nominations of Chairperson. Bob Cron nominated Bernie Goss. Dennis Derrieux seconded.

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

Bernie Goss opened the floor for nominations of the Vice-Chair. David Detwiler nominated Dennis Derrieux. Bob Cron seconded.

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

The Board congratulated Bernie Goss and Dennis Derrieux on their re-election.

Item 5: Committee Report on Neighborhood Park Site Tour – Bernie Goss, Bob Cron and David Detwiler

Bernie Goss distributed a handout (See attached) regarding the July 7, 2003 park site tour. The handout provides an overview of areas visited by the Parks & Recreation sub-committee. Bob Cron stated he felt additional Flint Ridge property should be the highest priority since the City already owns the property. Shawn Cooper reported on the availability of the adjacent property. Detailed discussion ensued regarding the numerous properties which potentially could be developed as neighborhood parks.

Joe Stevens discussed the growth occurring in the Northern area, generating the need for additional parks. Mr. Stevens stated Paradise Hills Park was turned over to the City by the Homeowner's Association and is not sufficient to service the large amount of residents in that area. Additional possibilities for neighborhood parks include the development of Saccomanno Park and Horizon Park. Bernie Goss stated Horizon Park is a nice property located off of 12th Street, consisting of approximately 15 acres. Reford Theobold said the Horizon Park property was bigger than City Council had originally intended to purchase as a small neighborhood park site. Mr. Theobold stated City Council had plans to reduce the access by developing several home sites along the frontage, in order to alleviate the concern of the park becoming a destination park. Reford Theobold stated this would still be a possibility, which would allow foot access only, although would result in less acreage for park development. Mr. Theobold also briefly discussed future needs of the 201 area, including areas outside of the current City limits, with regards to the Persigo agreement. The agreement includes the City and County meeting on a regular basis to review areas that would be appropriate for annexation discussion, creating incentives for the neighborhoods to annex.

Bob Cron questioned the effectiveness and timeliness of the communication between Community Development and the Parks and Recreation Department. Joe Stevens responded the current process works, however, there is always room for improvement. Mr. Stevens stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board should consider revisiting the policy of mandatory land dedication, as well as determining if the fee is still sufficient. The current fee has been in place for approximately 20 years and may need to be modified. Shawn Cooper stated he currently reviews

the plans to determine if there is a need for a park. If a need is not identified, the developer is required to pay the fee versus a land dedication.

The handout also highlights the main points of discussion from the July 1, 2003 meeting at Darla Jean Park, and the July 8, 2003 meeting at Paradise Hills Park. All property owners within a ½ mile radius of the two parks were invited to attend the meetings.

Bernie Goss reported approximately 10 – 12 people, of the 70 invited, attended the Darla Jean meeting. Although the group was very appreciative for past improvements, the majority of the residents stated they do not want to see any future development, including restrooms and/or a shelter. The only additions the group requested was security lighting, benches and horseshoe pits. The group expressed concerns regarding parking and after hours use. Joe Stevens stated he would modify the plan for Darla Jean Park, in context with the CIP.

Approximately 25 residents, of the 487 invited, attended the Paradise Hills meeting. The group stated they did not want additional lighting, especially surrounding the basketball court. The residents expressed a concern regarding the hours of operation, stating the closing time is too late for a residential park. Currently all City parks are open to the public 5 a.m. – midnight. Suggestions included the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board categorizing City parks, allowing for different hours of operation in residential areas. Chairman Goss requested the Board consider categorizing the parks, stating he wants to revisit this issue within the next 30 days.

The Paradise Hills residents expressed their interest in trails, a drinking fountain, bicycle racks, additional trees and a refuse bag dispenser located on the East side of the park. Joe Stevens reported the group appeared to be split regarding the installation of restrooms. The majority of the residents, in attendance, wanted a shelter. Unfortunately, there was not a consensus regarding location. Bob Cron, Reford Theobald and Bernie Goss volunteered to meet with the leaders of the Paradise Hills Homeowner's Associations, in hopes of reaching a final decision regarding the location of a shelter and perhaps explore future restroom options.

Chairman Goss reported he was approached by a man who offered the Parks & Recreation Department a piece of property on E Yucatan (filing #7). Bernie Goss looked over the property and is recommending the Parks & Recreation Board deny the offer. Mr. Goss stated he does not feel the property is usable, as it is less than ½ acre, is an odd shape, and has a drainage ditch running through the middle.

Item 6: Mesa County Update – Tillie Bishop and Sue Gormely

Commissioner Tillie Bishop briefly discussed the need to increase communication between Mesa County, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and the City, especially regarding the 201 area. Mr. Bishop expressed his concern that the 201 area is bound to undergo annexations, stating better coordination upfront could ensure a much smoother transition down the line. Commissioner Bishop stated he is looking forward to expanding the awareness, and feels the two governmental agencies will be able to accomplish more if they work together.

Tillie Bishop introduced Sue Gormely, who is directly involved with the Mesa County properties and facilities. Mrs. Gormely stated the County has been “playing catch up” from previous years when parks and recreation was “not” a priority. Sue Gormely reported on several of the County's

parks, as well as the issues they currently face. Similar to the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department, consistent vandalism continues to be a main issue of concern.

Sue Gormely provided an update on the 40 acre Long property, stating they have conceptually designed the park and are moving forward with the plans. The County Commissioners are bound by Mr. Long's will, which states the park project must be started by 2005 and substantially completed by 2010. A series of public meetings, as well as conversations with School District #51 have taken place. At this time, the plan includes 6 multi-purpose fields, a skateboard park, a tennis court, a softball field and several trails. The Long property is the largest park Mesa County has ever undertaken.

Mrs. Gormely reported the main entrance to the park will be accessed from E ½ Road. A big concern is the difficulty of people accessing the park from across Patterson Road. The safety of children crossing the busy street has continued to be an issue, as the children often do not wait for the light. The possibility of installing a pedestrian overpass is being considered, however, Tom Fisher reported that studies have show that people very seldom use overpasses. Should they decide to use an overpass, Tom Fisher stated it might have to be coupled with a barrier/fence down the middle of the street. Mr. Fisher stated the cost of an overpass structure is approximately \$3-4 million.

Tillie Bishop briefly reported on a new group of citizens heading-up the Clifton area. The main issue the group faces is the inadequate sewer system. Discussions have included their options to incorporate or to partner with the City of Grand Junction.

Chairman Goss extended an "open invitation" for Mesa County representatives to attend the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meetings to improve the communication between the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the County. Reford Theobold discussed the possibility of the County and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board partnering on properties the County unintentionally acquires. (i.e., survey mistakes, etc.) Many of these properties are often deemed unusable, however, Mr. Theobold stated they may be used as a starting point for neighborhood parks. Reford Theobold stated the property at the foot of Mantey Heights is a good example. The property does not have access to it other than the canal roads. Mr. Theobold suggested the North side of the canal could be a potential place for a "pocket park" and a likely target for the trail system pilot project.

Item 7: Scholarships for Recreation Programs

Mari Steinbach reported on the Recreation Scholarship Program, which has been in place since 1998. Ms. Steinbach stated the scholarship fund is currently funded through business donations. So far this year, approximately \$15,000 in recreation scholarships has been given away. Efforts have been made to review the structure of the program in comparison to other scholarship programs across the country. Several agencies currently include an "option to donate" on their registration forms, which provides an opportunity for participating families to pay extra towards the scholarship fund. Mari Steinbach requested an endorsement from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to include the "option to donate" on future Grand Junction Parks & Recreation registration forms.

Reford Theobald moved to approve Ms. Steinbach's request. David Detwiler seconded.

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

Note: Bob Cron left the meeting prior to this agenda item, therefore, did not cast his vote.

Item 8: Correspondence

Joe Stevens reported he has received several comments from citizens requesting the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board name a park after Amore Arcieri. The Board members discussed possibilities, noting there are not currently any unnamed parks available to do so. Reford Theobald suggested a tree memorial at Sherwood Park. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to name one of the Canyon View Park facilities, which are currently under construction, after Mr. Arcieri. Bernie Goss requested options be researched and brought to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for future consideration.

Chairman Goss requested a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member start regularly attending the Commission on Arts and Culture meetings, in efforts to increase communication. Dennis Derrieux volunteered. Tressa Fisher will notify the Commission and will provide Dennis Derrieux with the necessary information.

Joe Stevens reported he was recently contacted by a local "dog park" committee member. The representative presented Mr. Stevens with a petition consisting of 1,000 signatures. Joe Stevens stated he plans to include the information in the upcoming CIP package for Parks & Recreation Advisory Board review and possible prioritization.

Item 9: Other Business

Mari Steinbach reported there are several special events taking place within the next couple of weeks. The list of events included the Trike & Bike Rally, LP/CARA Open Track Meet, Grunge 'n Plunge and the Teddy Bear Picnic.

Item 10: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist