

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
August 21, 2003**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Bernie Goss at 12:13 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bernie Goss
 Dennis Derrieux
 Bob Cron
 Reford Theobold
 Dale Hollingsworth
 Tom Fisher
 Cindy Enos-Martinez (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: David Detwiler

Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
 Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
 Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bob Cron moved to approve the July 17, 2003 minutes. Reford Theobold seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Recognition of Lena Elliott

Lena Elliott was not able to attend the meeting. Mrs. Elliott will be invited to attend the September 2003 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Cindy Enos-Martinez was introduced and welcomed as the Ex-Officio member.

Item 4: Review of Park Hours

Per discussion at the July 8, 2003 Paradise Hills Open House, Parks & Recreation staff has identified sites and proposed changes for neighborhood park hours. (See attached) Joe Stevens stated now is good timing for changing the hours, as the proposed changes can be included with the Parks & Recreation Fees and Charges, which will soon be presented to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and to City Council for approval. Bob Cron and Cindy Enos-Martinez, both, stated they agreed with changing to a two-tier (neighborhood versus destination) approach for setting park hours. Bernie Goss questioned which category Sherwood Park should be in, noting the park has many late night walkers. Reford Theobold questioned the necessity of establishing hours for undeveloped parks. Joe Stevens responded that, although, Parks & Recreation does not normally advertise undeveloped areas, Matchett Park is a good example as to why it is necessary to establish hours for the undeveloped parks. The Matchett property is often used by walkers, joggers, bicyclists and is currently used for numerous special events, including the Matchett Trail

Run. Chairman Goss requested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board pursue shortening neighborhood park hours and be ready to make a solid recommendation at the September or October meeting.

Item 5: CIP Discussion

Joe Stevens distributed a handout listing the major park related projects proposed for 2003 – 2013. (See attached) The purpose of the review was to focus on major park projects in the CIP to identify any other areas the Board wants to review. Joe Stevens reported Paradise Hills Park and Darla Jean Park improvements have been deferred for a year with City Council's approval. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members are scheduled to meet with all four President's of the Paradise Hills Home Owner's Associations to discuss future improvements to Paradise Hills Park, including the location of the proposed shelter. Joe Stevens requested the Board review the ten year plan and determine the appropriate balance between future "development" and "acquisition". Discussion ensued regarding the following individual projects:

- Parkland Acquisition
- Paradise Hills Park Development
- Westlake Park
- Darla Jean Park
- Matchett Park
- Restroom Facility Reconstruction
- Riverfront Trail Connection
- Major Park Development
- Phase I of Horizon Park
- Phase I of Saccomanno Park
- Wingate Park Development
- Dog Park Development

Mr. Stevens discussed the possibility of developing a dog park in 2004, reporting that the City may be willing to commit \$5,000 towards the site/land and oversight/maintenance responsibilities. An additional \$15,000 would need to be raised by the dog park supporters in order to fully develop the site. The current site identified is a city-owned open space off of the Blue Heron Trail. This site is currently graveled and is not being utilized. Cindy Enos-Martinez questioned the City's liability should a dog bite and/or accident occur in an off-leash park. Joe Stevens responded he had consulted with administrators of a dog park in Ft. Collins and was told the liability is no different than other park activities, and that the liability resides with respective dog owners. Mr. Stevens also briefly discussed the liability issue with the City's Risk Manager, Dave Roper, who said there are a few areas of concern, but nothing that would be insurmountable. Bob Cron stated dog parks are becoming more and more common, and that the City of Grand Junction would be better off "identifying and designating" a dog park with rules and regulations versus the current situation at Canyon View Park, where dogs are running unleashed. Joe Stevens stated dog parks are becoming standard for communities our size and have, for the most part, been successful. Dale Hollingsworth stated the original intention was to locate the park in an area that would provide easy access for tourists. Bob Cron responded that the proposed location would provide simple access from the highway and would allow for adequate signage.

Joe Stevens reported on additional projects planned in the 2004 budget. Plans include reconstructing the #17 green at Tiara Rado with funds from the golf expansion fund. A two-tiered fee for the golf courses will be proposed for 2004 -2005. The two-tiered structure will charge

more at Tiara Rado than at Lincoln Park, which is justifiable since it is comparing a 9 hole to an 18 hole golf course. Other projects being reviewed are the installation of water features (spray amenities) at the pools and the replastering of both swimming pools. Cindy Enos-Martinez questioned if the two public swimming pools are sufficient for Grand Junction's population. Joe Stevens responded that, based on the population, the valley could use two more pools the size of Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool.

Bob Cron expressed his concern with item #7 “Restroom Facility Replacement” in regard to the Lincoln Park restrooms. Mr. Cron stated he doesn't want to replace the restrooms and later find out they have to be moved based on the Lincoln Park master plan. Bob Cron also stated he does not feel the proposed projects are aggressive enough. Cindy Enos-Martinez cautioned the Board about being too aggressive as City Council has made a commitment to address traffic issues in the upcoming years. Joe Stevens stated Parks & Recreation is still paying off a significant amount on Canyon View Park and the Matchett property with lottery proceeds. Once the loans are paid off, the lottery funds will be freed up for other projects. In addition, funding for GOCO mid-range grants have not been factored in. Bob Cron stated he would like to see a neighborhood park budgeted for every year, and he is concerned that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is “falling behind” with regards to the master plan. Cindy Enos-Martinez responded that the responsibility also lies with the neighborhood residents; if they want new equipment, they need to ask City Council for it.

Joe Stevens reported Sink, Combs and Dethlefs will be recommending a new sound system for Suplizio Field in 2004, as a part of the Lincoln Park master plan. The cost is approximately \$275,000, therefore, the Parks Improvement Advisory Board will be asked to assist with the funding. The current system has crashed 7 times throughout the last year. The concession stand roof will also need to be replaced in 2004.

Item 5: Correspondence

Joe Stevens reported the Mesa County Jr. Football Association would like to present their \$65,000 donation to City Council at the September 17, 2003 Council meeting.

Mr. Stevens reported he recently received a petition from Eagle Rim Park residents who are requesting the Buffalo Grass be replaced. Due to the adverse soil conditions, Buffalo Grass has been the only feasible option for this location. Discussion ensued.

Joe Stevens stated Maggie Doyhenard and the Basque group will be planting donated foliage at the 24 & G Road corner, within the next couple of weeks. The Basque group has shown much enthusiasm and appears to be very appreciative of the work the City has done. Ms. Doyhenard has requested an Open House to dedicate the corner. Possible dates for the Open House were discussed.

Reford Theobald relayed information regarding graffiti at Columbine Park, stating the vandals are now painting on the underside of the slides and playground equipment. Don Hobbs reported on a recent finding at Williams Park. Joe Stevens described an incident at Whitman Park, when a life was saved by a Parks employee who called 911 after noticing a homeless man was not moving, despite the fact that the sprinkler system was “showering” him with water.

Item 6: Other Business

Reford Theobald expressed his concern with the current condition of Lilac Park. He would like to see additional lilacs planted in the park since the lilacs have died over the course of time and have not been replaced. Cindy Enos-Martinez and Bob Cron volunteered to join Reford Theobald, in order to form a sub-committee to pursue turning the park around with minimal impact on the budget.

Item 7: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist