

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

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

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent:                   Reford Theobold

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

**Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Bob Cron moved to approve the August 21, 2003 minutes. Tom Fisher seconded the motion.

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

**Item 3: Park Hours**

Bernie Goss stated he has received numerous phone calls regarding park hours. Mr. Goss requested the Board reach a decision as soon as possible on a proposal for City Council. Bob Cron stated that the Paradise Hills Home Owner Association Presidents support changing the hours for neighborhood parks, per their meeting on August 21, 2003. Bob Cron stated he supported the two-tier approach, however, questioned Sherwood Park being listed as a “neighborhood” park. Mr. Cron proposed the Board recommend the revised park hours, with the exception of Sherwood Park, leaving Sherwood’s closing time at midnight. Dale Hollingsworth stated he felt the sensitivity should definitely be to the residents surrounding neighborhood parks. Chairman Goss requested that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board make a recommendation, at the October 16, 2003 meeting, for City Council consideration.

Don Hobbs reported on a new security system recently installed at Eagle Rim Park. The system comes on at sunset and has a motion activated camera aimed towards the restrooms. When activated, the system takes a picture and announces the activator is “unauthorized”, that a picture is being taken, and for the activator to leave now. Mr. Hobbs received a call from a woman who was walking her dog in the park around 8:00 p.m. and set off the system. The woman expressed the camera was a “Big Brother” system watching over her and was very upset. Don Hobbs

explained to her that more than \$500 worth of vandalism occurred at Eagle Rim Park the weekend before and that the system was an attempt to deter the vandals.

#### **Item 4: Budgetary Update**

Joe Stevens reported on the on-going 2004 – 2005 budget process. The overview is scheduled for October 29, 2003. The budget is scheduled to be adopted sometime in November. Joe Stevens stated the sales tax decrease is not just difficult for Parks & Recreation; it is presenting challenging situations for all the departments.

Joe Stevens briefly discussed an article on the overbuilding of golf courses and the fact that enterprise operations are not generating enough funds to pay the bills. (See attached) Joe Stevens stated he felt there was some merit to the article and foresees this issue needing to be addressed further in upcoming years.

Joe Stevens discussed the status of cemetery operations, which is being subsidized more and more each year. Traditional burials have continued to decrease each year and the City's cemeteries have lost 60-70 burials since the recent opening of the veterans' cemetery.

#### **Item 5: Dedication of "Cultural Corner" at Canyon View Park**

A ribbon cutting dedication of the Basque cultural corner is scheduled for October 16, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. The new shelter is scheduled to be completed prior to the dedication date. Invitations and a news release will go out in the near future.

#### **Item 6: Other Business**

Bernie Goss briefly described the September 17, 2003, City Council meeting, at which the Mesa County Jr. Football Association presented City Council with a \$65,000 check. The funds are to be used towards the development of additional multi-use fields at Canyon View Park.

Dale Hollingsworth discussed Two Rivers Convention Center, suggesting the name should be changed to Two Rivers "Community" Center. Mr. Hollingsworth stated nine tenths of the facility's use is "community" use, not "convention" use and requested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members discuss his suggestion at a future meeting. Cindy Enos-Martinez responded that when the consultant was hired to review the remodeling of Two Rivers Convention Center, the name was included. At the time, City Council supported the name Two Rivers Convention Center. Joe Stevens stated, from a marketing aspect, it is most helpful that Grand Junction has a "convention center", as it helps bring people here. Currently 65% of the revenue at Two Rivers Convention Center is food related, which is astronomical in terms of convention centers. Up to this point, Two Rivers Convention Center has capitalized on the food; however, the facility is attempting to branch out with room rentals and other possibilities. The name "Two Rivers Convention Center" gives the City an opportunity to do so.

Cindy Enos-Martinez stated she recently read an article on Chef Mario at Two Rivers Convention Center, who is now offering cooking classes. She stated the classes were an excellent idea and said she was glad the Two Rivers Convention Center staff was energetic and willing to try new things. Joe Stevens reported he has received excellent feedback regarding Two Rivers Convention Center from other City departments as well.

Joe Stevens reported the Colorado Parks & Recreation Association has selected Grand Junction and Two Rivers Convention Center for their 2005 conference. Grand Junction was selected over Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Vail, and Snowmass.

Bob Cron reported on the sign project for along the Riverfront Trail. The signs are designed and ready for fabrication. The Fish and Wildlife service committed to purchase the signs and pay for installation. A \$5,000 contribution will be funded for the Parks & Recreation Department to maintain the signs once installed. Mr. Cron reported the signs should be installed by early spring 2004.

Cindy Enos-Martinez reported the Parks Improvement Advisory Board voted to contribute \$135,000 towards a new sound system for Stocker Stadium. The total cost of the sound system is \$270,000, with the additional \$135,000 coming from Parks & Recreation. However, the Parks Improvement Advisory Board intends to request a contribution from JUCO, which would reduce PIAB's contribution.

Cindy Enos-Martinez reported on the retirement of Hurst Otto, Parks Improvement Advisory Board Chairman. She also reported that Buzz Schoenbeck discussed the successful resurfacing of 6 tennis courts, at Grand Junction High School, due to the joint effort between Parks Improvement Advisory Board and the School District. Cindy Enos-Martinez also reported on the concession stand roof at Lincoln Park. The roof is leaking and will probably have to be patched or replaced prior to the master plan being completed. To a degree, these may be considered "maintenance items", but due to the costs, they are part of the City CIP.

Joe Stevens discussed the savings involved with installing artificial turf at Stocker Field. Should the City of Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department ever consider installing artificial turf, the savings would include staffing costs (no longer necessary to mow, water, etc.). Also, with regards to the recent drought related issues, artificial turf may be a viable solution down the line. The consultant is working on a draft of these recommendations, which will be presented to the Parks Improvement Advisory Board and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board in anticipation of making a joint recommendation to City Council.

**Item 7: Adjourn**

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist