

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
January 16, 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
Dennis Derrieux
Bob Cron
Tom Dixon
Dale Hollingsworth

Board Members Absent:

David Detwiler

Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Lynda Lovern, Recreation Supervisor
Stacy Pike, Senior Recreation Leader
Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
Matt Just, Intern

Invited Guests:

Greta and Ralph Piland
Terry and Joya Piland
Dan and Abby Piland
Gayle James
Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates
Ted Ciavonne, Ciavonne & Associates

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bob Cron moved to approve the December 19, 2002 minutes. Lena Elliott seconded the motion.

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

Item 3: Recognition of Ralph and Greta Piland

Bernie Goss introduced guests Ralph and Greta Piland. Mr. and Mrs. Piland were invited to attend the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting to be recognized for their five years of leadership and service at the Senior Recreation Center (SRC). Joe Stevens began by providing a brief background regarding the operation of the SRC, stating that for many years the continuity was difficult, with leadership often lasting no longer than 6 months. Ralph and Greta Piland have been an incredible asset to the SRC by working well with the City and by managing a very demanding and diversified group of seniors. Chairman Goss presented the Piland's with a

plaque and thanked them for their efforts and dedication from 1998 – 2002. Ralph and Greta graciously accepted the award and introduced their family members who also attended the meeting. Lynda Lovern stated that Mr. and Mrs. Piland had made her job much easier during the last five years and personally thanked them for their devoted service.

Item 4: Introductions

Lynda Lovern introduced Stacy Pike to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members. Stacy Pike is the Recreation Leader who is responsible for senior programming. She has been employed with the Parks & Recreation Department since April 2002.

Mari Steinbach introduced Matt Just, who is the new intern for the Parks & Recreation Department. Matt Just joins us from St. Cloud State in Minnesota.

Item 5: Canyon View Park Plans Review

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates and Ted Ciavonne, Ciavonne & Associates attended the meeting to provide an update on the plans for Canyon View Park. Mr. Kuhn began by saying they are early in the design process, construction documents have been started and the drawings are approximately 30% complete. A budget spreadsheet (See attached) was distributed for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's review. Discussion ensued regarding the landscaping of the 24 & G Road corner. These landscaping improvements are not optional, landscaping will be completed during this phase. Grading is also necessary with this phase as it is essential to grade the entire area. Ted Ciavonne briefly mentioned the considerable differences in electrical costs due to them having to continue to work with two separate electrical companies – Excel and Grand Valley.

Lena Elliott questioned the intentions of the Basques organization and if they had plans to contribute. Joe Stevens and Shawn Cooper met with Maggie Doyhenard this week and shared the preliminary plans. Mrs. Doyhenard told them they are ready to commit and they've talked to Valley Grown who plans to donate plant material worth several thousand dollars. They also discussed the festivals and barbecues the Basques group normally conducts at this site. Joe Stevens mentioned to her there might be an area developed specifically for these purposes. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board looks forward to the upcoming donation.

Paul Kuhn requested flexibility to react to the pricing whether it is low or high in order to structure the bidding process. Mr. Kuhn also spoke about the add alternatives, stating alternate "A" (courts 3&4) and alternate "B" (piping of Cochran Wash) must happen before bid alternate "C" (irrigate and grass the fourth football field). Alternate "B" & "C" must be done during the same development phase. The costs estimates listed were all based on the assumption a \$150,000 GOCO grant would be received along with at least a \$40,000 donation from Mesa County Junior Football.

Lena Elliott requested clarification regarding the tennis courts. Paul Kuhn responded that the \$1.7 million project does include a total of 6 tennis courts. Bob Cron recommended changing the 6 tennis courts to one package versus two separate alternates in hopes the contractor would reduce the cost of each individual court if they had the option to build the entire tennis complex. Mr. Kuhn will analyze and will prepare a bid document that maintains flexibility and give the City the best price. Joe Stevens expressed that it is a good time to go to bid and if the prices are low enough, this may end up being a moot point.

Tom Dixon questioned what the intentions were for the areas that were not going to be developed. He expressed concern that undeveloped areas create dust problems for the rest of the park, especially the baseball field. Paul Kuhn responded that unfortunately there are not enough funds available to seed and irrigate the remaining undeveloped areas. He said one of the possibilities would be to crimp straw into the dirt, which should help reduce the dust. Joe Stevens stated he would like to see an alternative added to include some type of vegetation rather than leaving a large unseeded area. He stated the dust not only causes problems for the maintenance crews but also creates appearance issues for the park. Ted Ciavonne responded they are not able to inexpensively isolate the earthwork and that irrigation is the big expense, not the seeding. At this point in time, additional irrigation is not included in the plans, although, dust is a real legitimate concern and will need to be addressed. Shawn Cooper stated that the dust is also a code issue, as fugitive dust is not allowed to leave the site. Mr. Ciavonne stated another possibility is to run PVC piping along the top of the ground, although it would be subject to possible vandalism and liability issues. Joe Stevens made the recommendation to review the costs, evaluate the problem and create an additional alternate that includes dust abatement. If the bids come in with good numbers, then they can try to get it done. If not, and it truly becomes a problem, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board could then readdress the issue, possibly including the costs in the future operating budget. The Board members agreed with this recommendation and requested an additional alternate, "E 1/2", be added to the plans.

Paul Kuhn reported on an issue with the wetlands area permit. Originally, the plan was to pipe the entire wash and bring the turf area to the edge of the wash. Due to a new Environmental Wetland Law, intended for improving water quality, they are now limited to only 300 feet of piping.

Current timeline: The plan drawings will be ready in March 2003. Afterwards, there will be a 6-8 week bidding process, with hopes of breaking ground in June.

Chairman Goss requested a motion from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to continue as planned.

Tom Dixon moved and Bob Cron seconded a motion to continue with the current plans and to include a way to provide a solution in regards to the dust, including the addition of alternate "E 1/2".

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

Item 6: Park Development Update

Joe Stevens distributed a fact sheet on the Matchett Park property. (See attached) The fact sheet was created in response to Dale Hollingworth's request for information at the December 19, 2002 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Stevens reported the land is currently leased to a local farmer, Frank Fisher. The rental house on the property is currently leased out as well. Bob Cron, who is a member of the Grand Junction Finance Corporation (GJFC), reported that the farm lease with Mr. Fisher was just recently extended for another two years. Mr. Cron said the members of the GJFC are very pleased with Frank Fisher and have found him to be extremely cooperative as well as conscientious of the citizens who use the trails for jogging, bicycling, etc.

Item 7: Other Business

Joe Stevens handed out the new “City of Grand Junction’s Parks & Recreation Facility Guide”. He also distributed the new City of Grand Junction’s Strategic Plan for 2002 – 2012. There are several areas that will impact the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, including identifying areas of future park sites for acquisition. Lena Elliott questioned the responsibility the developers have to set aside a portion of the land and develop it as a neighborhood park. Shawn Cooper replied that the City used to work towards public open space development, however, since there are no set guidelines, the development often consisted of residential quality equipment, low maintenance on the equipment, less than satisfactory space, etc. Due to the poor development, the Parks & Recreation Department feels it would be better if they provide the public areas using park development funds. City Council’s intentions are to get ahead of the growth.

The “2003 Winter/Spring Activity Guide” is now available. Joe Stevens expressed he felt this was one of the best public documents produced by Parks & Recreation. Bob Cron reported he had already received a compliment regarding the new Activity Guide.

Lena Elliott recently received compliments regarding Parks & Recreation Supervisor, Traci Altergott’s, coaching of the Palisade High School basketball team. The Parks & Recreation Department has numerous staff members who volunteer for youth programs, including Doug Jones, who referees on a regular basis for High School football, track and basketball, as well as Eddie Mort who referees for High School football and softball. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board wanted to recognize these employees, and any others we failed to mention, for their dedicated involvement in the community.

For the benefit of the new Board members, Bernie Goss requested a tour of the existing Parks & Recreation facilities. Joe Stevens requested the Board members create a list of the areas they would like to visit. Shawn Cooper will identify preliminary park sites for potential neighborhood parks and include them in the tour. Tressa Fisher will assist in coordinating and scheduling the tour.

Tom Dixon stated that due to the March Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting being scheduled the same week as spring break he will not be able to attend. After a brief discussion, the decision was made to move the March meeting to Thursday, March 27, 2003.

Dennis Derrieux has been heavily involved with Mesa State Booster Club and the process of creating a message center along 12th Street. They are currently trying to obtain a corporate sponsor to assist in the cost of a message center. Due to the sign code, the message cannot be a running text message. Mr. Derrieux questioned the possibility of upgrading the Stocker Stadium sign on 12th and North Avenue. Joe Stevens responded that the Parks Division has considered improving the sign, but the costs of a new sign has been a barrier.

Dale Hollingsworth stated he appreciated the Matchett property information distributed earlier in the meeting. He then handed out a list of projects he would like to receive additional information on. (See attached) The list includes questions he’s been asked and has been unable to answer. Mr. Hollingsworth encouraged each Board member to create their own list.

Chairman Goss briefly discussed the Art Commission's request to attend a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. The Board member's agreed to invite the Art's Commission to the February 20, 2003 meeting. Tom Dixon suggested a sculpture be installed at 24 & G Road corner of Canyon View Park.

Item 8: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist