

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **July 10, 2008**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 12:02 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present:                    Jack Scott  
    Tawny Espinoza  
    Lenna Watson  
    Reford Theobold  
    Dr. William Findlay  
    Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:    Mike Vendegna, Interim Director  
    Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
    Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner  
    Traci Wieland, Interim Parks Superintendent  
    Larry Manchester, Interim Recreation Superintendent  
    Christine Dupont, Leisure Services Representative

Guests:    Rich Englehart, Deputy City Manager

### **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Jack Scott moved to approve the June 5, 2008 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Reford Theobold seconded.

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

### **Item 3: Reorganization of Parks & Recreation Department**

Rich Englehart reported the Parks & Recreation Department has been undergoing some substantial moves in the organization on an interim basis. Mr. Englehart said there were nine internal candidates for the Interim Director's position and stated Mike Vendegna has been selected to fill the position. Rich Englehart also reported Traci Wieland has been moved to the interim Parks Superintendent position (replacing Assistant Director Don Hobbs) and Larry Manchester will be assuming the interim Recreation Superintendent's position. Mr. Englehart stated the interim structure will remain in place until January 1, 2009 and discussed what a great opportunity the temporary positions are for staff members, as well as the entire organization. Jack Scott asked how many applications were received for the Director's position. Rich Englehart responded there were approximately 130 applications, of which the City has selected six candidates for the interview process. Mr. Englehart said the assessment center will be held on Monday, July 28, 2008, and will include structured tours with the Department Heads. Jack Scott commended the City on how quickly the hiring process was moving along. Bruce Hill asked for clarification on the differences between the Recreation Superintendent and the Parks Superintendent

positions. Traci Wieland responded, stating the Recreation Superintendent is solely responsible for the oversight of recreation programs, aquatics, the Senior Recreation Center and the Bookcliff Activity Center, while the Parks Superintendent is responsible for the oversight of the parks and/or maintenance. Mrs. Wieland discussed the increasing need for these two divisions to co-mingle, stating the goal is to promote better communication and bring the two departments closer together. Rich Englehart stated Shawn Cooper's position as Parks Planner is also undergoing some significant changes, as the Department intends to begin utilizing City Engineers and the Purchasing Department for future projects. Lenna Watson commended the Parks & Recreation Department for being such a good team and working through these changes together. Mike Vendegna expressed that it is a real pleasure and honor to be selected as the interim Director and said he was excited to be involved in the reorganization process.

#### **Item 4: Canyon View Park – Phase III Update**

Shawn Cooper reported the original bids for phase III of Canyon View Park were approximately \$300,000 over budget. Mr. Cooper stated he worked with the contractors and was able to reduce the cost while maintaining the integrity of the project. Dr. William Findlay asked if phase III would include any additional parking. Shawn Cooper responded parking is not included in this phase, as some of the upcoming improvements must be made "prior" to developing additional parking. Rich Englehart stated there will be some "temporary" parking developed; however, it will not be paved or striped at this time. Mr. Englehart said the City has involved Lena Elliott in the planning process. Rich Englehart reported the Parks Improvement Advisory Board is contributing \$50,000 towards the project; however, the GOCO grant application was unsuccessful. Mr. Englehart stated the Parks & Recreation Department has been given the direction to make some cuts and to identify which projects can be postponed, in order to fund phase III of the park. Jack Scott asked if Canyon View Park will be completely finished once phase III is completed. Shawn Cooper responded, saying Winston Associates has recommended creating a preliminary master plan by re-involving the community to assist in determining what improvements still need to be made. Jack Scott asked if there will ever be a stopping point when it comes to the development of Canyon View Park. Shawn Cooper stated, yes, the intention is to put together a final plan that will result in 100% completion of the park.

#### **Item 5: Burkey Park Update**

Rich Englehart reported on the upcoming Burkey Park neighborhood meeting, scheduled for July 19, 2008, stating the original format for the meeting has been modified. Mr. Englehart stated the intent of the meeting is no longer to present the City with a check, but to provide information and to allow for comments on the master plan (originally completed in 1995). Rich Englehart stated the City plans on providing minor improvements, including mowing weeds, trimming the trees, providing a woodchip trail, and installing a split rail fence along the front side for safety purposes. Mr. Englehart stated Burkey Park is not high on City Council's priority list. Rich Englehart said the park's development provides some political challenges, as the park property is city owned, yet surrounded by county residents. Rich Englehart reported Terri Troutner had recently met with Mayor Palmer and County Commissioner Janet Roland; however, said he has not yet heard how much the County intends to be involved. Discussion ensued regarding the fact that, should further development of the property continue, it could result in the Recreation Department scheduling recreation programs at Burkey Park. Bruce Hill stated he had met with Terri Troutner, at which time he reiterated he is unable to answer all of her questions, as City Council has to look at the big picture and prioritize "all" of the parks, not just Burkey Park. Mr. Hill stated he had expressed the reason Burkey Park has not been developed is due to funding constraints, not because of the annexation issues. Jack Scott stated he does not feel the annexation is an issue with the

neighborhood. Councilman Hill stated, although funding remains an issue, he is proud of the fact the community has chosen to designate land for future park properties. Mr. Hill expressed it doesn't make the gift of park property any less substantial if it cannot be developed until a later date. Bruce Hill stated park projects tend to happen in this community when the stakeholders contribute significant sums of money. Mike Vendegna stated the minor improvements being made at Burkey Park should make a big difference in the appearance of the park and allow for better use until the property can be developed. Jack Scott asked if the property will be leveled, specifically referring to the hill in the middle. Mike Vendegna responded the hill is not very significant, and should not require any grading. Rich Englehart stated the City plans to pass out pre-cards at the meeting, allowing the neighbors to check off their wants, with regards to Burkey Park being a "passive" park or an "active" park. Mr. Englehart expressed the importance of the neighborhood understanding the property is a public land, and if fully developed, it will be programmed.

Tawny Espinoza asked if the Burkey Park neighborhood has pursued any grants. Rich Englehart responded, to his knowledge, they have not applied for any grants. Tawny Espinoza said there are small Active Community Environment Task Force grants available through the State Health Department. Jack Scott stated Terri Troutner has asked for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee, one of which will be overseeing grant applications. Mr. Scott said Terri Troutner has passed out over 600 flyers in the neighborhood, regarding the July 19, 2008 meeting.

#### **Item 6: CIP Update**

Mike Vendegna stated the mission when reviewing the CIP is to evaluate the entire department, with regards to operating more efficiently and ways of providing better customer service. Mr. Vendegna said the department is the process of evaluating every CIP project, past and current, to determine the validity and prioritization of each one. In addition, the projects will be brought up to current prices. Mike Vendegna said, while it is a grueling process, the group is proceeding with a very proactive and realistic approach.

Bruce Hill briefly discussed the Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool, asking the Parks and Recreation Department to be sure to engage Mesa County when addressing the pool's replastering project. Reford Theobold asked what will happen to the pool if School District 51 decides to tear down Orchard Mesa Middle School. Traci Wieland said Joe Stevens had initial discussions with the School District, in which he proposed the pool and gymnasium not be torn down, providing the potential for the Recreation department to contract for the use of the facility. Bruce Hill said the County Commissioners have recently questioned why the County is involved with the swimming pool. Councilman Hill said this really is a "three" organization conversation, as it should include the County, City, and School District 51. Reford Theobold volunteered to attend the meetings, in order to provide the history of the City/County partnership.

Bruce Hill reported City Council is having a retreat this month and will need some direction as to what to focus on when discussing the CIP. Mr. Hill expressed City Council needs to be more active in the initial process. Rich Englehart said the CIP is an interesting process, as City Council needs to filter down the priorities, staff needs to make sure they are bringing up valid projects, while at the same time, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board must be kept in the loop. Reford Theobold said it can be very difficult to plan for future projects without being told how much funding will be available, as some years there is more money dedicated to parks than other years. Mr. Theobold said developing the CIP has always been a juggling process and can often be very difficult to accomplish. Bruce Hill also discussed

difficulties in the process, stating \$32 million in projects were removed from the CIP years ago, due to the increasing costs of commodities. Reford Theobold asked what Laurie Kadrach's style is when balancing the numerous requests from the departments. Councilman Hill said Laurie Kadrach has assembled a 20 member group to overlook the project requests and assist in determining a fair balance in the distribution of funds. Traci Wieland said last year's CIP review was very much a teamwork process between the departments. Rich Englehart stated the CIP gathering for City departments will be held on August 12, 2008, and asked for all requests to be submitted to Mike Vendegna ASAP.

Dr. William Findlay asked for an update on the Moonridge Falls trail project, stating it was discussed at the last Riverfront Trails meeting. Shawn Cooper said the Urban Trails Committee wants to do a pilot trail project behind the Moonridge Falls subdivision; however, they do not have the funding to do so. Mr. Cooper said one of the largest expenses will be the cost of the bridge(s) needed to connect G Road and 25 ½ Road. Shawn Cooper said another obstacle for the project is the fact that the Grand Valley Irrigation Company acquired a small corner of the property needed to complete the trail. Mr. Cooper said the Urban Trails Committee is exploring their options, which may include applying for grants.

#### **Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda**

Tressa Fisher reported the Police Department has requested to attend the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Parks Improvement Advisory Board (PIAB) meetings to show a presentation on the Public Safety Initiative. The Board members decided to invite PIAB to their August 7, 2008 meeting.

#### **Item 8: Other Business**

Rich Englehart reported the City Clerk's office has received three or four applications for the vacant Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member positions; interviews will be taking place soon.

#### **Item 9: Adjourn**

Lenna Watson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Reford Theobold moved to adjourn and Dr. William Findlay seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist