

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) and Parks Improvement
Advisory Board (PIAB) Joint Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2008**

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair Lenna Watson at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

PRAB Members Present:

Jack Scott
Tawny Espinoza
Lenna Watson
Dr. William Findlay
Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

PRAB Board Members Absent:

Reford Theobald

PIAB Members Present:

Bernie Goss
Doug Thomason
Harry Butler
Sue Gormley (Ex-Officio)

Stadium Committee:

Jamie Hamilton (not there)
Bruce Hill

PIAB Board Members Absent:

Craig Meis
Lena Elliott

Stadium Members Absent:

Paul Cain

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Mike Vendegna, Interim Parks and Recreation Director
Jessica Norman, Administrative Assistant
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Traci Wieland, Interim Parks Superintendent

Guests:

Gregg Palmer, Mayor
Rich Englehart, Deputy City Manager
Bill Gardner, Police Chief
Ken Watkins, Fire Chief
Jim Shanks, Public Works & Planning Program Manager

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the July 10, 2008 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dr. William Findlay seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Yes 5 No 0

Item 3: Public Safety Initiative Presentation – Bill Gardner, Ken Watkins and Jim Shanks

Police Chief Bill Gardner, Fire Chief Ken Watkins and Public Works & Planning Program Manager Jim Shanks presented information on the Public Safety Initiative. Please see attachment for more information on the presentation.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Parks Improvement Advisory Board further discussed questions they had about the Public Safety Initiative.

Jack Scott asked what would happen if the Public Safety Initiative does not pass. Bill Gardner responded, stating the Police Department could add more trailers, however it would be very dysfunctional. Mr. Gardner stated that not only are the space needs an issue but that the Police Department may have a serious lack of ability to recruit and obtain professional employees due to poor working conditions.

Questions on funding the Public Safety Facilities were brought up and discussed. Harry Butler asked if the quarter cent sales tax increase will be enough funds for all that is needed. Ken Watkins responded, stating the tax would be enough to build all the facilities and supply the apparatuses and amenities for the Fire Stations, however the quarter cent sales tax increase would not include funding to staff the Fire Stations. Mr. Butler asked how long the quarter cent sales tax increase would stay in effect. Mr. Watkins stated City Council is still trying to decide if the quarter cent sales tax increase would sunset or possibly stay. Mayor Greg Palmer responded, stating the quarter cent sales tax increase will allow them to get a good start in paying off the Public Safety Buildings however it would take 30 years to pay off. Mr. Palmer stated TABOR excess revenues are currently pledged to the Riverside Parkway which will not be paid off until approximately 2016, once that date is reached TABOR refunds can then be used to pay for the Public Safety Buildings causing the quarter cent sales tax to sunset. Lenna Watson asked if the \$98 million will be a secure price. Ken Watkins stated the \$98 million is based on 2010 figure. Mr. Watkins stated they are hoping to be in construction next year and stay within the budget. Greg Palmer stated that because of construction cost, it is better to build now with a 30 year projection rate and then gradually move into the unfilled spaces.

Questions were brought up as to the design and layout of the building. Dr. William Findlay asked if there were plans to add a floor or an additional story to the buildings to accommodate for future growth. Jim Shanks stated the building was intricately designed to have adjacent spaces in specific areas. By adding on to the building those specific areas will not be in a space of best use. Mr. Shanks went on to state that the plan is to build what they need with a 30 year projection rate, while the City grows over time substations will more than likely be built in other parts of the City. Jack Scott brought up how the exercise room has come with criticism and asked what the exercise room entailed. Jim Shanks stated that the exercise room is no “Gold’s Gym” but is a very modest workout facility. Shawn Cooper asked if the Parking Garage will be used for personal vehicles as well as police vehicles. Jim Shanks responded, stating the parking garage would be parking for personal vehicles for employees as well as all department vehicles.

Discussions on adjacent properties were brought up. Harry Butler asked if the Color Wheel property on 8th and Pitkin will be purchased. Mayor Greg Palmer stated that the space currently may not be needed, however they realize that the space may become an option down the road considering the City would have first rights to purchase it. Dr. William Findlay asked if anything will be done with Whitman Park which is adjacent to the Public Safety building. Bill Gardner stated that there are issues with the park considering it is not very assessable to the public. Longer range plans involving the movement of traffic

flow are needed. Mr. Gardner said the current plan includes improved street lighting in the park, planting of more trees and possibly relocation of the restrooms. Bill Gardner stated that he would like to hear Sue Gormley's thoughts knowing that she has had a history of involvement in the construction of the Mesa County Justice Center as well as many other buildings. Sue Gormley stated she felt that the price per square foot is right on and though it may seem like a lot of money to some, they may not realize how many buildings are being built. Mrs. Gormley stated she thought it is a great investment.

Lenna Watson asked if there was anything the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Parks Improvement Advisory Board could do other than to encourage people to attend one of the offered Open Houses. Ken Watkins stated any kind of verbal or written support informing citizens about the Public Safety Initiative would offer tremendous help. Greg Palmer stated that they would be more than willing to share the message with any other groups or boards.

Lenna Watson thanked Bill Gardner, Ken Watkins and Jim Shanks for coming in and presenting the Public Safety Initiative.

Item 4: Burkey Park Update

Mike Vendegna reported on the Burkey Park neighborhood meeting that took place on July 19th, stating that it went extremely well. Mr. Vendegna said they were able to discuss different options for the future development of the Park. Mr. Vendegna said that minor improvements to Burkey Park are underway, including the installation of a fence and rock, cutting back weeds and grading a soft surface trail. Mike Vendegna stated the surrounding neighborhoods would like to take more ownership of Burkey Park therefore the neighborhoods will be planning a work weekend on August 23rd.

Mike Vendegna stated that he will be meeting with Terry Troutner to go over the 501C3 Nonprofit information and provide her with helpful information so she will be able to take it over from here. Jack Scott asked how much involvement the County would have with the development of the Park. Rich Englehart responded that the County is looking into potentially having funds in 2010 for the development of the Park as well as taking the lead with discussions on annexations.

Mike Vendegna stated they have proposed to put money into updating the master plan for Burkey Park (originally completed in 1995). Lenna Watson asked if the master plan will only be for Burkey Park or if it would also include other City parks. Mike Vendegna stated they have requested money to be set aside for Burkey Park and a revision of the overall parks master plan. Discussion ensued regarding the idea of having a committee that would be made to prioritize the development of future parks by collecting statistical data. Jack Scott stated that the material provided from the committee should then be given to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to prioritize and discuss. Bernie Goss stated he would like to have Parks Improvement Advisory Board be involved in the process of prioritizing. Rich Englehart stated that this is a great time to start the process of prioritizing, collecting information, getting the Parks Improvement Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board involved and other citizen groups to reevaluate the master plans for parks and that hopefully by the 2010 budget all parks will be prioritized. Mr. Englehart stated that he'd like the new Parks and Recreation Director, Rob Schoeber to start discussing the process with the Parks Improvement Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to the greatest extent for the organizing and prioritizing of parks projects.

Item 5: Other Business

CIP Update

Mike Vendegna handed out a list of CIP projects for 2009. Mr. Vendegna stated that the Parks Department would like to fine tune the CIP making it more defined and realistic. Mr. Vendegna said they are looking into developing a team within the Department as well as utilizing individuals outside the Department to readjust and modify the CIP process and projects in the way they are evaluated. Lenna Watson asked that the Board review the CIP Projects handout and bring back any questions to the next board meeting for further discussion.

Super Rad Art Jam

Mike Vendegna informed the Board about an event that will be put on by a local group held on August 30th at Eagle Rim Skate Park called the Super Rad Art Jam. Mr. Vendegna said the local group sent a proposal stating that they would like to attach 4x8 sheets of masonite on the fence and have local artists paint on the boards. Furthermore, the group will pay for everything as well as monitor the artwork and park for any vandalism that may occur after hours. Mr. Vendegna stated that the purpose of their proposal is to show the community that there are local artists that can do amazing art work. In addition, the event would also fit in with the culture and atmosphere of the Skate Park. Mr. Vendegna stated that the Recreation Department will be hosting a Skate Event at Eagle Rim and thought that it would be a great idea to team up with Super Rad Art Jam and have it all on the same day. Rich Englehart stated they would like to possibly get Allison Sarmo the Cultural Arts Coordinator involved to sell or auction off the artwork and have that money put back into park development. Mike Vendegna said that another idea was to have Allison display the art work at different locations throughout town such as Lincoln Park or possibly selling them to larger companies/stores. Lenna Watson asked Traci Wieland if the Recreation Department has the resources such as enough staff, time and coordination to help with this event. Traci Wieland stated that last year they started this process when an employee of Traz came to the Recreation Department stating he'd like to organize a skate competition and have all the money earned go back in to the park. Mrs. Wieland stated that the Recreation Department has partnered with him and now his goal is to organize a skate competition at each park per year. Mrs. Wieland said that the skate competition along with the Super Rad Art Jam blend well together. Mrs. Wieland said the Recreation Department will be involved with publicizing the event, giving them the facility, but it will be organized by mostly all volunteers.

Jack Scott moved for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to endorse the Super Rad Art Jam. Dr. William Findlay seconded.

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

Item 6: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Norman
Administrative Assistant