

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes  
December 18, 2003**

**Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Bernie Goss at 12:05 p.m.**

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent:                   Reford Theobald  
  Tom Fisher

Staff Present:                             Joe Stevens, Director  
  Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
  Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
  Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner

**Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Bob Cron moved to approve the November 20, 2003, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dale Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

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

**Item 3: Review Timeline and Preliminary Design Elements for Wingate Park Development**

Joe Stevens reported on the December 11, 2003 and December 16, 2003 neighborhood meetings, at which residents were encouraged to voice their opinions regarding the proposed park plans. The residents surrounding the site indicated they are not interested in active future development; however, the residents living within a few blocks of the site would like a new shelter, playground, trails, etc. Shawn Cooper presented the preliminary plans for the park, which were originally established in 1995. The proposed plan includes a shelter, a “tot park” for ages 2-5, tennis courts and a hard trail. Mr. Cooper stated water storage, at the site, will be an issue and that a storage facility may have to be built under ground. The Board members discussed the immense need for the proposed park, due to the large amount of youth living in the area. Shawn Cooper also met with Wingate Elementary officials on December 10, 2003, as it is equally important for the Parks & Recreation Department to work closely with the school. Shawn Cooper stated Wingate Elementary has established a “Sense of Place Program”, to teach their 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders how to relate to the elements around them (i.e.: geology, biology, wildlife, etc.) Mr. Cooper reported the group has expressed a strong interest in preserving some of the site’s natural native landscaping. The Board discussed the possibility of requesting to locate possible tennis courts on the school’s property, in order to allow for a larger area of native landscaping. An additional, viable concern

the neighborhood residents have is “parking”. Currently, when school is in session, people park along the streets in front of neighborhood houses. Board members discussed the possibility of working with School District #51 to develop a small parking lot. Joe Stevens requested direction from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, as to how they would like to proceed. The decision was made to integrate school and park activities, refine the design to one or two alternatives and host an additional neighborhood meeting in hopes of reconciling identified issues. Shawn Cooper stated the park will have a 6 – 8 month construction period and should be completed by the fall of 2004.

#### **Item 4: Other Business**

Shawn Cooper provided an update on the Pine Ridge tennis courts. The old courts are currently being dug out and the concrete will be poured after the first of the year.

Joe Stevens reported new playground equipment is going to be installed in Cottonwood Meadows. Mr. Stevens stated the basketball court is also being redone. Some of these improvements are the results of neighborhood meetings/ice cream socials.

Joe Stevens provided an update on St. Mary’s Park. Mr. Stevens recently met with representatives of St. Mary’s Hospital. The hospital currently owns property adjacent to the park (Schmidt Property - West on Bookcliff Avenue). St. Mary’s Hospital stated they may be interested in negotiating the Schmidt property along with the park and allow the City to enter into a long term lease for both properties. At this time, Mr. Steven’s has requested Kelly Arnold authorize a 3 month extension on the lease, in order to allow time for further discussions with St. Mary’s Hospital.

Dennis Derrieux reported on the status of the artwork proposals for West Lake Park and the new phase of Canyon View Park. The Arts Commission has narrowed the proposals down to two choices for the skate park and three choices for Canyon View Park. Maintenance, vandalism and safety issues were all taken into consideration when reviewing the proposals. Mr. Derrieux stated interviews will soon be conducted with the artists and the final choices will be presented to City Council for approval.

Joe Stevens reported the newly appointed GOCO Director, John Swartout, recently came to visit him. Mr. Stevens stated that Mr. Swartout came to Grand Junction, at his own expense, to discuss outstanding issues, concerns, etc. on the Western Slope.

Joe Stevens provided an update on the Lincoln Park Stadium Improvement Plan. Andy Barnard, Sink Combs Dethlefs, Shawn Cooper, and Joe Stevens presented the plan to the potential partners (JUCO, Mesa State College, School District #51 and Mesa County Commissioners) on December 15, 2003 and December 16, 2003.

Bernie Goss requested an update on Two Rivers Convention Center. Joe Stevens stated that he could report that there have been several resignations at Two Rivers Convention Center. An investigation took place, with the assistance of the City’s Human Resources Department. Mr. Stevens stated, based on the findings of the investigation, appropriate measures were taken that resulted in organizational changes. Travis Bunkelman has been designated as the interim Facility Manager. Mr. Stevens stated Travis Bunkelman has an outstanding background with customer

service and has already proven to be an asset during this very busy time. Joe Stevens stated Two Rivers Convention Center is midway through their busiest month of the year and that he has every confidence December will be most successful and enjoyable for Two Rivers Convention Center customers.

David Detwiler reported Sink, Combs, Dethlefs was recently hired by the town of Fruita to work on their future recreation center. Shawn Cooper reported the firm was also chosen to work on the Gunnison recreation center project.

Bob Cron announced he is planning to retire as Coordinator for the Colorado River Greenway. Mr. Cron has served as a consultant on the greenway project for the past eight years. Steve Moore has been selected to replace Bob Cron.

Bob Cron briefly discussed concerns he has regarding recent changes within Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). With the appointment of a new Director, GOCO will most likely start pushing forward with the bonding issue. Mr. Cron stated that the debt service for a bond will be approximately 20-25% of the GOCO funds that are available each year for local projects. Stakeholder meetings will begin taking place as early as January 2004.

**Item 5: Adjourn**

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist