

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes February 21, 2008

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Co-chair Nick Adams at 11:52 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Dennis Teeters
Reford Theobold
Jack Scott
Nick Adams
Lenna Watson
Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: Tawny Espinoza
Dr. William Findlay

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Reford Theobold moved to approve the October 18, 2007 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Lenna Watson seconded.

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

Item 3: CIP Update

Canyon View Park: Joe Stevens reported the Parks and Recreation Department is moving forward with the development of Canyon View Park, as City Council recently approved the Capital Improvement budget. Mr. Stevens said the City has attained Winston Associates and Ciavonne Roberts & Associates to put together specifications on the tennis courts, restrooms, shade shelters, and parking. Joe Stevens stated the baseball complex is not currently in the budget or the design criteria. Mr. Stevens said the Department is pursuing a GOCO grant that requires a resolution prior to submittal, in order to ensure the financial ability to maintain the development and that funds have been identified for Phase I of the project, which consists of completing the tennis complex. Joe Stevens stated, once the Canyon View Park tennis complex is completed, the City intends to keep half of the existing courts at Lincoln Park. This decision will be based on repair needs, the viable life of the courts, and in context of the Lincoln Park Master Plan.

Nick Adams asked how the construction will affect the ongoing events at Canyon View Park. Joe Stevens responded there may be some inconveniences; however, there should be minimal impact. Reford Theobold asked if the tennis complex is fully funded. Joe Stevens answered the funds

have been identified for the tennis complex, restrooms, and a shelter, although the budget will be very tight. Mr. Stevens said the idea is to work with Lena Elliott and the Tennis Association, in hopes of obtaining additional support from the local contractors.

Joe Stevens reported the parking component will not be a part of the 2008 construction, due to budgetary constraints. Dennis Teeters stated there is never enough parking in City parks and expressed the need for additional parking to be installed at Canyon View Park as soon as the funds are available. Traci Altergott reported some of the current illegal parking at Canyon View Park may soon be alleviated, as Mesa County Junior Football Association will be moving a portion of their games to the other side of the park.

Jack Scott asked what additional development at Canyon View Park still has to be finished once Phase I is completed. Joe Stevens reported the Canyon View Master Plan has changed since origination, as it no longer includes an amphitheater or a water feature. Mr. Stevens said several other ideas have been presented over the years, including the possibility of including, but not limited to, another play structure, and an extension of the current trail system. In addition, the City was approached, a couple of years ago, with a very cost effective proposal from a local volleyball organization. Joe Stevens stated, in order to complete the park within the next couple years, additional improvements will need to be identified and a funding source will have to be established.

Park Restrooms: Shawn Cooper reported the City has just received two bids for the Duck Pond and Sherwood Park restrooms (\$157,000 and \$183,000), and is estimating the cost of the Canyon View Park restrooms to be \$250,000 – \$300,000. Mr. Cooper said the restrooms for Duck Pond and Sherwood Parks are finally within budgetary limits and the City is receiving a better price by having both completed at the same time. Shawn Cooper stated both restrooms should be completed by the middle of summer 2008.

Riverfront Trails: Joe Stevens stated the Riverfront Commission is currently partnering with Mesa County to develop a trail system through No Thoroughfare Wash. Mr. Stevens said Mesa County, in collaboration with GOCO, plans to develop a trail from the 340 area (Riverside Park) to connect to the Monument Road trailhead. Joe Stevens said Mesa County has proposed the City assume ownership and maintenance of the properties, which are currently under title to the Riverfront Foundation. Mr. Stevens stated Redlands Water and Power was the original owner of the majority of the property that has been given to the Riverfront Commission, who will then give it to the City. Shawn Cooper stated the intent of the trail extension is to provide a safer route for trail users than crossing the busy intersection at Monument Road. Joe Stevens stated the entire project will be funded by GOCO and Mesa County with construction management by the City. Shawn Cooper stated one of the big challenges, prior to construction, will be for Mesa County to notify the adjoining property owners that they truly do “not” own the property along the wash. Lenna Watson expressed what a tremendous accomplishment this project will be, stating it has been ongoing for a very long time.

Item 4: Cost Recovery for Recreation and Aquatics Programs

Joe Stevens stated the information in the Board packets is a continuation of the cost recovery discussion, in context to the resident / non-resident fees and charges policy. Mr. Stevens reported City Council has asked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a recommendation as to

whether any modifications need to be made to the current cost recovery policy. Joe Stevens stated Traci Altergott has been doing research in order to compare Grand Junction's Parks and Recreation Department's 70% cost recovery guidelines to other agencies; however, is finding it difficult to compare "apples to apples". Mr. Stevens stated many of the organizations in Traci Altergott's research have recreation centers, contributing to their costs by having to maintain the center; however, those with health club features often generate revenue. Joe Stevens discussed Grand Junction's ability to partner with the schools, such as the Bookcliff Activity Center in which the School District maintains the building and the City maintains the grounds. Mr. Stevens stated the partnerships with the schools have proven to be very cost effective.

Joe Stevens said the Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department strives to maintain a 70% cost recovery while still attempting to make the programs available to low income families. An example of this is the current scholarship program, in which Traci Altergott reported approximately \$6,000 in scholarships were granted in 2007. Ms. Altergott stated the Recreation Department continues to look for ways of getting more people to take advantage of the scholarship program. Nick Adams suggested, rather than advertising the scholarship program, suggest the option of donating to the scholarship program when paying for a program. (Example: Offer the customer the option of "rounding up" their payment to allow for the difference to be donated to the scholarship fund.)

Joe Stevens stated the Department attempts to distinguish the difference between public good or private events, and is lenient with regards to charging for youth programs and/or senior programs; however, the Department strives to recover most, or all, of adult program costs. Joe Stevens said another impact the Department factors in is the "sense of community" with regards to special and/or community events. Mr. Stevens stated the direction nationally appears to be continued movement towards more of a "market strategy". Joe Stevens said the Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department has had difficulty keeping pace on fees and charges, due to the increased costs of minimum wages, utilities, etc., stating the fees have not risen as rapidly as costs.

Nick Adams expressed approval of the current 70% cost recovery rate. Lenna Watson asked how the Department could improve the cost recovery if determined necessary. Traci Altergott responded the challenge is to focus on the "overall" recovery rate (average), versus stressing over the cost of individual programs. (Example: Adults are currently 70% cost recovery or higher, while youth programs are closer to 40% cost recovery.) Joe Stevens expressed the Department does a good job with regards to community and/or special events by obtaining sponsorships. Traci Altergott stated the Department obtained approximately \$50,000 in cash and/or in kind sponsorships in 2007. Bruce Hill stated City Council is requesting the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board simply review the policy and determine what changes, if any, need to be made. Mr. Hill expressed the importance of recognizing that if the Department still provides quality programs and facilities, the community is less likely to complain about the fees. Joe Stevens reported each division is priced differently, referring to golf's aggressive fee structure that consists of a 3% - 4% increase based on a ten year business plan. Mr. Stevens concluded by saying his intentions today were to introduce the subject and to start a dialogue. Joe Stevens said he will provide additional options for further discussion at a future meeting.

Item 5: Meetings Times and Dates

Joe Stevens discussed the difficulty of obtaining a quorum for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on the third Thursday of each month. Mr. Stevens asked the Board if there is a better date and/or time to hold the meetings. Upon discussing, the Board unanimously agreed to change the meetings to the first Thursday of each month. The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, 2008.

Item 6: Other Business

Jack Scott requested an update on the striping of the track. Joe Stevens reported the Department was not able to locate the gentleman who normally paints the track, but was able to contact his associate. Mr. Stevens said the price was very comparable to what has been paid during the past. Shawn Cooper said the painting should have been completed last month and that he would follow-up as soon as possible.

Don Hobbs reported on the first season with the new turf at the Lincoln Park stadium, stating it was very successful. Mr. Hobbs stated there were less maintenance issues than originally expected and there were no complaints from the users. Don Hobbs stated the stadium crews are scheduled to lay down the new cover in early May in preparation for graduation ceremonies. The cover will extend across the field from sideline to sideline, 10 yard to 10 yard line.

Joe Stevens reported City Council recently approved the replacement of the Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool waterslide. Mr. Stevens stated the difficulty in finding a new slide was that the original slide was constructed 20 years ago, and the molds are no longer available. Due to age of the slide, the Department has to spend more money than originally anticipated, as the slide will have to consist of a whole new configuration. Joe Stevens discussed the urgency for the slide's completion, stating the slide is worn out and can no longer perform safely. Mr. Stevens also reported on the replacement of the hot tub and installation of the small waterslide at Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool. Shawn Cooper reported the date for installation is undetermined at this time, stating the slide was manufactured in Turkey, transported by boat, and when in the process of being transferred onto the trucks in Denver, was tagged for a customs inspection.

Item 7: Adjourn

Co-chair Nick Adams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jack Scott moved to adjourn and Reford Theobald seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist