

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

March 22, 2007

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Tom Dixon at 12:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Lenna Watson
Reford Theobald
Jack Scott
Nick Adams
Tom Dixon
Dr. William Findlay
Dennis Teeters
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Jerry Roberts, Parks Supervisor

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Dennis Teeters moved to approve the February 15, 2007 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Jack Scott seconded.

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

Item 3: Synthetic Turf Update

Doug Thomason provided an update on the status of the synthetic turf project, stating discussions are still in process. Councilman Thomason reported City Attorney John Shaver, and City Manager Dave Varley, recently met with Kiewit Building Group (KBG) to negotiate final numbers and to obtain more information. Doug Thomason stated Kiewit's deadline for a final decision is Monday, March 26, 2007, and if they are awarded the contract, they have committed to complete the installation of the synthetic turf in time for the 2007 fall sports season. Tom Dixon asked how many fields Kiewit has installed. Joe Stevens stated KBG has completed hundreds of installations; however, the majority of their projects have been completed over seas. Doug Thomason stated American Civil Constructor's (ACC) has submitted a lower bid, although it has been difficult to compare the two proposals as it doesn't appear they are comparing "apples to apples". Mr. Thomason stated there are still numerous questions that need to be answered to eliminate many of the gray areas. Joe Stevens said KBG has answered some of the questions; however, City Attorney John Shaver is still reviewing the contract language. Doug Thomason reported the Parks Improvement Advisory Board is still attempting to obtain a "maximum guaranteed price" (MGP) from KBG and has yet to determine the project's "economy of scale". Councilman Thomason stated the decision whether or not to proceed with KBG will not affect Mesa State's soccer project in any way. Joe Stevens stated the difficulty is in comparing the two proposals, and that ACC is

familiar with the soil conditions, which they took into consideration when putting together their bid. Tom Dixon expressed concern regarding KBG's experience, stating that without the "economy of scale" it may be better to wait a year for a better product. Joe Stevens stated KBG is here, mobilized, and is willing to complete the project within a 60 day timeframe. Dr. William Findlay questioned if KBG was absolutely "certain" they can complete the project before the fall season begins. Nick Adams also expressed concern regarding KBG possibly not meeting their deadline. Dennis Teeters agreed, stating he would feel more comfortable waiting until the fall season is over. Joe Stevens stated the decision remains with the Parks Improvement Advisory Board as they are the entity funding the project. Doug Thomason reported Jamie Hamilton and Bruce Hill will be meeting with the County Commissioners on Monday, March 26, 2007 in hopes of obtaining a contribution from the County. Tom Dixon stated he hopes the Parks Improvement Advisory Board will consider the fact that "quality" is more important than the project's timeframe. Doug Thomason stated the City intends to help fund the project, regardless if the project is completed this year or next; however, he said he cannot speak for the other contributors. Joe Stevens stated the "good" news is that the pricing of the artificial turf is great from both contractors. Mr. Stevens reported the Parks & Recreation Department has been chosen to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Denver Bronco Caravan organization, to be used towards the synthetic turf project.

Doug Thomason reported Bernie Goss was selected as At Large Member for the Parks Improvement Advisory Board. Mr. Thomason stated the Board intends to nominate officers at their next meeting.

Item 4: Overview of Central Control Irrigation System

Don Hobbs showed a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) on the City Park's central irrigation system, Rain Bird Maxicom, in which the City has invested over \$200,000 during the past three years. Mr. Hobbs stated the system has been fully operational for two years. Don Hobbs introduced Jerry Roberts, Parks Supervisor, stating, Mr. Roberts has assisted him with the extensive programming and set up of the system. Mr. Hobbs stated Maxicom has many beneficial features, such as the ability to allow staff to set up individual irrigation schedules based on plant type, environmental conditions, and soil conditions. The new system also has a flow watch, which will shut itself off should a break occur, and has rain watch and wind watch that will shut down the system automatically whenever necessary. In addition, the system includes a non-irrigation system component control, which allows staff to control "anything" that can be turned on or off through the irrigation controller (lights, fountains, door locks, etc.) Mr. Hobbs stated staff is currently considering operating the holiday lights through Maxicom. Don Hobbs said the modern technology results in a much more efficient system, and have already reduced the water usage by 15% since implementation. (Mr. Hobbs said the figures/data may not be exact at this time, as it has not been a long enough timeframe and the weather can also impact the final numbers.) Maxicom runs from a central computer (located at Lincoln Park), which send the information to a cluster of control units that transmit to numerous controllers around the City. There are three weather stations throughout the City, which are located at Lincoln Park, Canyon View Park, and Tiara Rado Golf Course. Don Hobbs briefly discussed how many organizations have invested in the Maxicom system, yet have not used the system to fullest extent of its capabilities. Mr. Hobbs stated he and Jerry Roberts have spent an extensive amount of time researching and programming the system to control all of the parks in the City system. Don Hobbs stated, while the system is really "unseen" and probably not appreciated by most, it has been an incredible asset to the City of

Grand Junction, saving an enormous amount of staff time, and an average of 14 million gallons of water per year.

Item 5: Other Business

Tom Dixon discussed a recent conversation he had with Bernie Goss regarding the importance of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board establishing priorities for future projects/investments. Mr. Dixon asked the Board if they had any thoughts and/or suggestions as to how to approach the task of identifying and prioritizing future projects. Joe Stevens responded one way this could be accomplished is for the Board to form a subcommittee to be involved with the prioritization of the City's CIP budget cycle. Lenna Watson, Nick Adams, and Reford Theobold volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Joe Stevens expressed his appreciation of the Board's desire to be involved in the CIP prioritization, and for the Board's attendance at the recent joint meeting with City Council. Dr. Findlay stated he was encouraged by the joint meeting and is looking forward to the subcommittee's report.

Joe Stevens reported KJCT is no longer the primary sponsor of the annual 4th of July celebration and stated the City is searching for a new sponsor. Mr. Stevens said City Council has given their authorization for the Parks & Recreation Department to sign an agreement with the fireworks company, in order to ensure the fireworks are ordered on time for the event. Joe Stevens stated the City of Grand Junction sent out over 100 RFP's and did not receive a single response. Mr. Stevens said the Department is open to any ideas (both for sponsors and/or entertainment), and asked if the Board members are aware of any local organizations who may be willing to sponsor the event, to please have them contact the Parks & Recreation Department ASAP. Joe Stevens stated, while the event is not a revenue generator, it is a break even event that could be implemented with an estimated budget of \$25,000.

Joe Stevens reported City Council has officially authorized the purchase of 90 new electric golf carts at Tiara Rado Golf Course.

Nick Adams complimented the Parks & Recreation staff for the recent spring break camps that were held at the Bookcliff Activity Center. Mr. Adams said his children participated in the camps and had a really good time. Nick Adams stated the Bookcliff Activity Center is a beautiful facility and thanked the staff for doing such a great job with the programs.

Item 6: Future Meetings Agenda

Item 7: Adjourn

Chair Tom Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist