

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

April 19, 2007

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Tom Dixon at 11:45 a.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: Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner
Tina Ross, Aquatics Coordinator
Larry Manchester, Recreation Supervisor

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the March 22, 2007 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Nick Adams seconded.

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

(Dr. William Findlay was not present at the time of the vote.)

Item 3: Welcome GJ 101 Tour Members

Tom Dixon welcomed the GJ 101 members (Kendall Glad, Tamalynn Kirby, Charles Kirby, and David Shrum) and asked them to introduce themselves and provide the Board with the reason(s) they signed up for the GJ 101 program. Mr. Dixon briefly discussed the role of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Tom Dixon thanked the members for attending and expressed appreciation for them taking the time to get involved and participate in GJ 101.

Item 4: Ellis & Associates Platinum Award Presentation – Tina Ross and Larry Manchester

Tina Ross, Pool Manager, reported the Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Department switched to the Ellis & Associates lifeguard training program in 1996. Ms. Ross stated Ellis & Associates have a total of 403 clients worldwide, have had over 500 million people visit their locations during the past five years, and have not had a single drowning as a result of the lifeguard training and oversight. Tina Ross stated she was proud to announce Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool and Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool have recently been awarded the “Platinum International Safety Award” by Ellis & Associates for receiving “exceeds” on all operational safety audits for 2006. Tom Dixon congratulated Tina Ross and the aquatics staff for their accomplishment.

Chairman Dixon asked Tina Ross about the status of the new water slide at Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool. Ms. Ross reported the slide project is in the bidding process and the installation is tentatively scheduled for this fall. Tom Dixon briefly discussed the excitement of the project within the community and asked if Mesa County would be contributing to the cost of the project. Larry Manchester responded the County has committed to pay half of the overall cost.

Item 5: Las Colonias Presentation – Shawn Cooper

Shawn Cooper showed a Las Colonias master plan presentation (see attached), stating the area is seen as an integral part of the entire South downtown area. Mr. Cooper stated EDAW, Inc. has been awarded the consulting contract and has held numerous public workshops, focus groups, open design meetings, etc. in order to obtain public feedback regarding the 107 acre property. (The 107 acres includes approximately 45 acres located within the flood zone.) Shawn Cooper stated the intent of the Las Colonias project is to bring the focus of Grand Junction back to the river. Dr. William Findlay reported the Riverfront Commission is currently exploring the possibility of trading the Las Colonias proposed dog park area for a trucking company's property, which would increase the riverfront frontage. Shawn Cooper reported the total cost of the project is approximately \$18 - \$20 million (\$200.00 per square foot), with each of the phases costing an estimated \$2 – \$5 million. Mr. Cooper stated one of the main reasons there has been a push to create a master plan is to provide an opportunity to apply for grants (GOCO, Legacy, etc.). Shawn Cooper stated, with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's recommendation, the Las Colonias master plan will be presented to City Council for approval. Lenna Watson complimented the plan and acknowledged the amount of work involved. Shawn Cooper offered to allow the Board members to borrow the presentation should they want to show it to anyone, stating it would be great to get the information out to the community.

Lenna Watson moved to adopt the Las Colonias master plan and to move forward with presenting the plan to City Council for approval. Dennis Teeters seconded.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 7 No 0

Item 6: Synthetic Turf Update

Don Hobbs reported the Parks Improvement Advisory Board has approved entering into a contract with Kiewit Building Group, Inc. for the installation of artificial turf at Stocker Stadium. Mr. Hobbs stated the project will be funded by Mesa State, School District 51, JUCO, the City of Grand Junction, and a \$50,000 Bronco Caravan grant. Don Hobbs stated Kiewit Building Group, Inc. has committed to completing the project before the August 23, 2007 start of football season. Don Hobbs stated American Civil Constructors also bid on the project; however they indicated they could not complete the project prior to the 2007 football season. Mr. Hobbs stated the Parks Improvement Advisory Board felt "time was of the essence", therefore, chose to proceed with Kiewit Building Group, Inc. Shawn Cooper reported the final contract is being reviewed by the City's legal department and should be finalized within the next couple of days. Mr. Cooper stated Kiewit Building Group, Inc. has already begun the design phase. Dennis Teeters asked when the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will be able to see the design. Shawn Cooper responded he has not been given a date yet, but is anticipating the preliminary design should be ready for review sometime around mid-May. Tom Dixon asked why JUCO agreed to contribute \$100,000, as it is not a "baseball" related project. Don Hobbs stated JUCO is a member of the Parks Improvement Advisory Board, and although their emphasis is on the baseball side, they have been very generous

over the years with regards to numerous stadium related projects, including the Lincoln Park track. Dennis Teeters questioned why Mesa County is not contributing to the artificial turf project. Don Hobbs responded the County Commissioners have chosen not to participate at this time, stating the project does not fit into their budget process. Reford Theobold expressed concern that the County may no longer be interested in continuing their Parks Improvement Advisory Board membership and asked if this was the case. Doug Thomason stated Bruce Hill and Jamie Hamilton presented the project to the County Commissioners, who stated they would not participate at this time; however, said Steve Acquafresca, the County's Parks Improvement Advisory Board representative, appears to be willing to listen and learn what the Parks Improvement Advisory Board is about. Doug Thomason said the County has discussed the dues associated with the Parks Improvement Advisory Board, but has not indicated they will be discontinuing their membership, although he was not sure if the County intended to make any changes for their next budget cycle. Doug Thomason stated, regardless that the County has chosen not to participate, City Council thought the project was important enough to move forward and complete the installation before football season. Tom Dixon asked if there was any discussion that the County may have spent an excessive amount of money when developing Long Family Memorial Park and perhaps that is why they are not able to contribute at this time. Doug Thomason stated Long Family Memorial Park was not mentioned during their discussions. Jack Scott asked if the City has applied for any additional grants. Don Hobbs stated the Bronco's Caravan grant was the only application submitted. Dennis Teeters briefly discussed the upcoming track events, stating none of the currently scheduled track events are sanctioned. Traci Altergott stated the Parks & Recreation Department only has one track meet scheduled for this summer. Tom Dixon stated this may be a good time for the School District to contribute towards track improvements at Grand Junction High School.

Item 7: CIP Sub-Committee Update

Reford Theobold provided an update on the recent Parks & Recreation Advisory Board sub-committee meeting, in which the members (Reford Theobold and Nick Adams) reviewed the existing CIP budget for parks. Mr. Theobold stated the budget was very small, compared to previous years, and would not go far at today's prices. Reford Theobold stated the sub-committee designated the following projects in order of preference:

1. Canyon View Park (completion of parking, playground, and landscaping – would not include additional tennis courts)
2. Saccomanno Park
3. Internal master plan for Matchett Park (“planning only” to provide the framework for basic improvements such as grass areas, restroom, etc.)
4. Institute Stadium Master Plan (seating, restrooms, concessions, press box, etc. – Mr. Theobold said the stadium project will now cost approximately \$9 million versus the original \$4 million) Reford Theobold stated the stadium improvements would be completed in cooperation with numerous entities; however, should be included in the CIP in order for the various agencies to start budgeting now

Nick Adams discussed the increasing need for additional practice space, stating grass fields at Matchett Park would be a huge benefit to the community. Shawn Cooper said the difficulty in planting grass is coordinating it with the master plan in order to prevent having to redo it in the future. Lenna Watson asked if the grass fields would be expensive. Shawn Cooper responded, yes it is expensive to establish due to the cost of installing irrigation, as well as the costs involved

to maintain the fields. Jack Scott expressed his frustrations that Burkey Park was not identified by the sub-committee as one of the top four priorities. Reford Theobold responded the sub-committee based their decisions on what areas are currently lacking in parks as well as what areas serve “City” residents, stating the neighborhoods surrounding Burkey Park are not in City limits. Jack Scott strongly disagreed, stating many of the houses have been annexed into City limits and said there currently is not a park close by. Mr. Scott stated it is a “disgrace” Burkey Park was not higher on the list. Dr. William Findlay asked what the cost would be to make small park improvements, such as trails and grass. Shawn Cooper said, the cost is more than half of the total development costs, and depending on the water supply, it would cost an estimated \$60,000 an acre to develop grass and irrigation. Don Hobbs agreed, stating there is a lot of work/cost that goes on underground when installing turf. Tom Dixon stated restrooms would also have to be installed even if only partially developing the parks. Tom Dixon asked why the sub-committee had chosen to focus on large City parks even though City Council has given direction for them to focus on neighborhood parks. Reford Theobold stated the sub-committee focused on the large scale projects, as due to the high costs they will need a lot of time to plan for the funding. Tom Dixon briefly discussed the disrespect he has seen from the public at Canyon View Park, as people are parking in the dirt areas rather than the parking lot. Mr. Dixon expressed his disappointment, stating the wild flowers, which were planted in those dirt areas, will most likely not grow back. Reford Theobold discussed the importance of finishing Canyon View Park, stating the public’s perception is that Canyon View Park is already done. Mr. Theobold stated the items the sub-committee has selected for the park will make it appear finished, even if the City decides to add other features in the future. Reford Theobold discussed the plans for the tennis courts, stating four courts at Lincoln Park are scheduled to be resurfaced in 2008, and the rest are scheduled for 2012. Mr. Theobold said the long term discussions include removing some courts at Lincoln Park and to add more at Canyon View Park. Lenna Watson stated she was pleasantly surprised at how much use the tennis courts at Canyon View Park are getting. Dennis Teeters stated the School District works to host major tennis tournaments and would hate to see community lose any courts.

Doug Thomason stated the City’s budget process begins in late May or early July and stated it would be nice to have a wish list available to warrant discussion. Don Hobbs said the City will be putting together a ten year budget plan, and the sub-committees recommendations would be incorporated for submittal to City Council for approval. Mr. Hobbs stated the Parks & Recreation staff will present the information to the Board prior to requesting City Council’s approval.

Reford Theobold moved for staff to proceed with the sub-committee’s CIP recommendations. Nick Adams seconded. Discussion ensued.

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 1

Jack Scott strongly opposed the motion, stating Burkey Park should be in the top four priorities.

Item 8: Other Business

Tom Dixon reported he had recently been approached by Matt Cunningham requesting to attend the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting and present the developing concept for the nine holes at Tiara Rado Golf Course. Doug Thomason stated many people have already seen Mr. Cunningham’s presentation and was unsure why he was requesting to present it to the Board. Tom Dixon asked if the Board felt it was an appropriate agenda item, stating the proposed plan includes nine holes of golf, two parks, and a trail system. Lenna Watson expressed concern that allowing

the presentation may give an indication to public that plan is moving forward and may also be implied as consent. Nick Adams agreed, stating the presentation may cause misinterpretation. Tom Dixon stated, although allowing the presentation would be completely “noncommittal” on the Board’s behalf, the plan should be reviewed, as it includes potential park areas that would be dedicated to the City. Dr. William Findlay stated he agrees with Tom Dixon and said that it is appropriate for Mr. Cunningham to present at a PRAB meeting. Tom Dixon stated, unless he hears otherwise from Joe Stevens or Dave Varley, he intends to invite Matt Cunningham to attend the June PRAB meeting. Reford Theobald stated it would be a good idea to clarify to Mr. Cunningham that, while the Board is expressing an interest in the park related aspects of his presentation, they are not endorsing the plan in any way.

Nick Adams requested a park property tour for the PRAB members. Tom Dixon said the Board members will need a consensus that all members will attend, stating the Parks & Recreation staff had reserved two vans for the last scheduled tour and only two members showed up. Mr. Dixon stated the Board would discuss the possibility of scheduling a tour at the next PRAB meeting.

Item 9: Future Meetings Agenda

Matt Cunningham’s Development Presentation
Park Property Tour

Item 10: Adjourn

Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nick Adams moved to adjourn and Reford Theobald seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist