

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **May 17, 2007**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Vice-chair Dennis Teeters at 12:06 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Lenna Watson  
Reford Theobold  
Nick Adams  
Dr. William Findlay  
Dennis Teeters  
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

Tom Dixon  
Jack Scott

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director  
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent  
Shawn Cooper, Parks Planner  
Stacy Pike, Recreation Coordinator  
Emily Wright, Recreation Supervisor  
Tim Seeberg, TRCC Manager

Guests:

Tim Mayer, Canyon View Vineyard Church  
Bob Clifford, Canyon View Vineyard Church  
Cathy Lambert, Canyon View Vineyard Church  
Yvette Carnine

### **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Reford Theobold moved to approve the April 19, 2007 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Nick Adams seconded with the correction of a typo on the first page. (deletion of a duplicated word)

Motion adopted by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

(Dr Findlay was not present for the approval of minutes.)

### **Item 3: Request from Canyon View Vineyard Church**

Joe Stevens provided some background information on the Canyon View Vineyard Church event that takes place during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities in Lincoln Park (See attached handout). Mr. Stevens reported the church has been holding the event each year without a park permit, stating this has not been an issue until recently, due to the growing popularity of their event in combination of 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Joe Stevens said the main issue is that Parks and Recreation is trying to accommodate the needs and requests of the church in conjunction with the needs of the

Parks and Recreation Department's 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. Mr. Stevens also discussed the concern of setting a "precedence" which may lead to other organizations or groups requesting permission to hold events during the popular 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Traci Altergott introduced Canyon View Vineyard Church representatives Tim Mayer, Bob Clifford, and Cathy Lambert. Ms. Altergott said the church has been holding their event in the Lincoln Park loop area since 2004, stating the 2006 event had grown to include five acts on the main stage, bump n jumps, a 30 ft portable screen, the distribution of free food, and more.

Traci Altergott distributed a memo which illustrates the Parks & Recreation Department's three main areas of concern with the church's past events and also the Departments recommendations for the 2007 event. (See attached):

- 1) Schedule: Ms. Altergott discussed last year's scheduling, stating the Parks & Recreation Department would prefer the church start the main acts much earlier in the day (approximately 2:30 p.m.) and finish the entertainment by 7:30 p.m., with the exception of the inflatable screen which would allow the DVD presentation to be shown after dark.
- 2) Free Food Handouts: Traci Altergott discussed the concern regarding the free food handouts, stating while the Parks & Recreation Department recognizes and commends the church's attempt to feed needy families for free, it conflicts with the Two Rivers Convention Center concession operations. Ms. Altergott stated the Department is requesting the church limit the free items to anything other than hot food and soda, and recommending the free items include flavored water, Gatorade, popcorn, chips, assorted candy items, etc. Traci Altergott also stated the Department would like for the church to restrict their free handouts to their "booth" only rather than in close proximity of the Two Rivers Convention Center concessions stands, in front of the pool or adjacent the stadium. Joe Stevens stated his charge for the Parks & Recreation staff was to make the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event a "break even" operation, which will be very difficult if they are losing their main source of income (concessions) due to the church giving away free food.
- 3) Location of Events: Traci Altergott expressed concern regarding the "loop" locations, stating the grassy area is the "prime" seating for the people who can't afford to pay to watch the fireworks from within the stadium. Ms. Altergott suggested the church relocate their event to the Southeast corner (in the triangular grass area) versus in the loop area.

Don Hobbs discussed park permits, stating the Parks & Recreation Department has not historically issued permits for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, allowing everyone to access the park that day on a "first come first serve" basis. Mr. Hobbs stated reservations are not taken for the shelters, the Barn, or the entire park that day to avoid playing favorites. Mr. Stevens stated, in the past, anyone who called and asked for a permit to hold an event on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, was told by the Parks Administrative office their request was denied, due to such a large event (annual fireworks celebration) already taking place in the park. Mr. Stevens stated the Canyon View Vineyard Church is truly a "victim of their own success" with regards to the popularity of their 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Joe Stevens expressed concern, stating if a permit is offered to the church, many other organizations may decide to apply for a permit in order to take advantage of such a populated event. Mr. Stevens suggested another idea may be to incorporate the Canyon View Vineyard Church's event as part of the festivities that are held inside of Suplezio Field. Tim Mayer responded the church would not be in favor of this idea, as many of the people they desire to serve cannot afford to go inside the

stadium. Bob Clifford stated the church has communicated their intention with the Parks & Recreation Department every year in attempt to obtain a park permit; however, has always been told permits are not issued for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Clifford briefly discussed the church's hopes of expanding their event, by possibly offering free health screenings through a booth hosted by the Marillac Clinic. Nick Adams expressed the church event "adds" to the stadium 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities, and said he was happy to see the church was offering free water, etc. Mr. Adams stated the City is benefiting from the church activities, for the reason that people who can't afford to go inside the stadium are getting entertainment outside the stadium as well. Lenna Watson also commended the church's efforts, but expressed concern as to how to handle future events. Joe Stevens stated he also recognizes the church's efforts; however, the event has grown to a point that it could create other issues down the road. Mr. Stevens suggested the possibility of developing a scholarship program, which would allow for "everyone" regardless of financial status, the opportunity to watch the fireworks from within the stadium. Doug Thomason asked the church what they would do if another organization gets wind of their "first come first serve" arrangement and staked their claim of the grass area first. Reford Theobold suggested Canyon View Vineyard Church consider officially "sponsoring" the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks event, which would eliminate the possibility of them losing their grass area, as they would then have the right to claim the area as an official sponsor. Mr. Theobold stated the church sponsoring the fireworks could result in a "win win" situation, as the Parks & Recreation Department has been actively searching for a sponsor to help fund the fireworks event. Traci Altergott stated one of the first conversations she had with the church included the suggestion of the Parks & Recreation Department and the church collaborating together to host the annual event. Ms. Altergott stated staff's only real concern is the fact that the church is not willing to discontinue the Christian DVD presentation, which may create a conflict due to the religious aspect. Nick Adams disagreed, and asked if an oil company came in and wanted to run a DVD commercial/presentation, would the City allow it? Reford Theobold agreed with Nick Adams, stating that, although the City must be careful not to "endorse" religion, they also must be just as careful not to "exclude" religious events. Joe Stevens stated the issue, in some respects, is not unlike the Cornerstones of Law and Liberty. Mr. Stevens stated the church has been very gracious in working with the Parks & Recreation Department in the past; however, future events will need to be coordinated and/or regulated. Reford Theobold stated the issue at hand is whether or not the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board agrees with current arrangement for 2007, stating the issue of future events can be resolved once they can evaluate how well it worked and/or didn't work this year. Joe Stevens stated he would like to further explore the sponsorship idea, expressing the idea may be very viable. Discussion ensued as to whether the City would be able to contract with one sole sponsor, or if they should contract with multiple sponsors. Lenna Watson stated the City could impose different levels of sponsorship if necessary. Joe Stevens stated he was not convinced the Parks & Recreation Department wants to be the sole provider of the event, expressing they would have preferred for an organization to officially sponsor the entire event. Nick Adams asked what role KJCT had in the past, with regards to their sponsorship. Mr. Stevens stated KJCT underwrote the event inside the stadium, and handled all entertainment, firework productions, etc., while the Parks & Recreation Department ran the concessions and retained concession profits. Joe Stevens stated he is requesting affirmation as to whether or not the Board accepts the current 2007 agreement as written, which would include the Parks & Recreation Department issuing a park permit to Canyon View Vineyard Church. Nick Adams suggested it may be better for the Board "not" to take a formal action in order to avoid setting a precedence. Joe Stevens expressed his concern that the event has grown to the point that it cannot continue as is. Tim Mayer stated the church Pastor and staff understands the impact and difficulty the church's event has caused, stating they are currently

considering discontinuing the event completely in order to avoid "upsetting the apple cart". Lenna Watson, Reford Theobold, and Nick Adams stated the church was absolutely "not" upsetting the apple cart. Lenna Watson stated their event represents the citizens of Grand Junction, and stated the Board was not at all discouraging their event, and said the Board is just making sure staff's recommendation will accommodate both parties' needs. Nick Adams stated the church event is a great event and that the City should want to see the event continue. Tim Mayer stated the church assumed they were offsetting the Two Rivers Convention Center's concession losses by intentionally holding one of their annual events at Two Rivers Convention Center. Joe Stevens stated whether the Parks & Recreation Department intends to or not, they really "are" permitting and regulating the event already. Mr. Stevens stated he has consulted with the City's legal department who stated the best thing for the City to do is acknowledge they are permitting the event and to set standards for future use. Nick Adams expressed concern there is nothing to prevent another church and/or other organization from coming in and taking over the loop area should Canyon View Vineyard Church relocate to the triangle area. Traci Altergott stated the Parks & Recreation Department would prefer the loop area remain just for spectators. Nick Adams suggested additional sponsorship negotiations with the Canyon View Vineyard Church should take place and again stated he does "not" recommend the church discontinue the event.

Nick Adams moved to approve the Parks & Recreation Departments recommendations for the 2007 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, as outlined in the attached memo. Reford Theobold seconded, recommending the Board review the outcome of the 2007 event at a future Board meeting.

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

**Item 4: Bookcliff Activity Center Presentation – Stacy Pike**

Stacy Pike, Recreation Coordinator for the Bookcliff Activity Center (BAC) presented a slide show regarding the status of the new activity center during the past six months. (See attached) Mrs. Pike discussed the fact that “community buy in” has been one of the biggest challenges involved with opening the new facility. The presentation included several testimonials from current customers of the BAC and reviewed many of the upcoming events and/or programs that will be held at BAC. Stacy Pike discussed the fitness element at BAC, stating to date she has not heard any negative comments from the community regarding the new activity center competing with the local athletic facilities. Joe Stevens stated the activity center's target audience is much different than the health club population. Doug Thomason asked if the activity center is seeing a very centralized population. Stacy Pike responded BAC is seeing participants from all over the valley, and that the facility's patrons do not appear to be centralized at all. Traci Altergott stated the Parks & Recreation Department's leagues have also assisted in the facility's exposure, as many of the games are played at BAC.

**Item 5: Scheduling of Park Property Tour**

A park property tour will be scheduled for a date after the upcoming Parks & Recreation Advisory Board vacancies are filled.

**Item 6: Other Business**

Doug Thomason introduced Yvette Carnine, who has expressed an interest in one of the upcoming Parks & Recreation Advisory Board vacancies. Yvette Carnine provided a brief synopsis of her work history, and stated she has been specifically involved with the local little league for years, and has also chaired the women's Elam golf tournament. Ms. Carnine stated her perspective would be to get more involved with the community with regards to the kid's aspect.

Dennis Teeters discussed the recent letter from City Clerk Stephanie Tuin regarding the upcoming Parks & Recreation Advisory Board vacancies, stating City Council is currently soliciting input on the expertise and skills recommended for future Board members. Dr. William Findlay expressed the Council should consider candidates who have been involved with City programs over the years (either themselves or through their children/grandchildren). Discussion ensued regarding what current Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members may or may not be reapplying. Doug Thomason stated the deadline for Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member applications is June 1, 2007.

Joe Stevens provided an update on the success of the \$50,000 Bronco's Caravan grant, stating the Parks & Recreation Department also recently learned they were eligible for a NFL grant. Mr. Stevens stated the Department applied for a \$250,000 NFL grant, in which the only project the Bronco organization is endorsing is the Grand Junction project. (See attached application) Joe Stevens briefly discussed the short time frame in which the Department had to apply and the difficult application format, commending his staff for their hard work and dedication to the process. Mr. Stevens stated, although the NFL's focus is on football, the Department focused on the pledges from JUCO, School District #51, Mesa State College, etc., stating if the grant comes to fruition, the extra funds will go towards "additional" improvements. Joe Stevens stated the NFL very rarely releases this type of funding, and said Grand Junction would be the only organization to be awarded such a grant.

Dennis Teeters asked when the Board will be able to review the design for the stadium turf project, specifically the track and field facility. Shawn Cooper responded that, just this morning, he received portions of the design; however, he has not had a chance to review the documents yet. Mr. Cooper stated he does not think the plans include the "D" areas of the field at this time. Shawn Cooper stated Kiewit has reported the soil samples showed to be very wet and pliable, however, Kiewit has determined they are satisfactory. Mr. Cooper stated Kiewit's recommendation is to remix and restructure the top ten inches and that they are not concerned with the outcome based on their recommendations.

**Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda**

Reford Theobald reported Chairman Tom Dixon had stated Mac Cunningham will be presenting at the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Doug Thomason expressed concern that the Board's forum might imply endorsement. Dennis Teeters stated he had discussed this concern with Tom Dixon to ensure Mr. Cunningham knew there would be no endorsement from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board whatsoever. Nick Adams asked how the Board was going to benefit from hearing Mr. Cunningham's presentation, stating he was not sure the presentation would be beneficial or appropriate. Doug Thomason stated City Attorney John Shaver has advised City Council not to engage in any conversations with Mr. Cunningham. Councilman Thomason stated his comfort level is not with regards to the presentation, stating he agrees with Mr. Adams

that it would not be beneficial. Dr. William Findlay expressed it would be reasonable for the Board to hear the presentation with regards to the proposed park property. Discussion ensued. Joe Stevens stated he would prefer to obtain City Council and/or the City Manager's direction before proceeding. Discussion is deferred until further notice.

**Item 8: Adjourn**

Vice Chair Dennis Teeters 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