

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

October 18, 2007

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Co-chair Nick Adams at 12:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Dennis Teeters
Dr. William Findlay
Reford Theobold
Jack Scott
Nick Adams

Board Members Absent:

Lenna Watson
Tawny Espinoza
Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Larry Manchester, Recreation Supervisor
Doug Jones, Golf Superintendent
Rob Stong, Golf Professional

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the September 20, 2007 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Reford Theobold seconded.

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

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

Item 3: Golf Division Overview

Rob Stong reported 2007 has been a good year for golf, stating the most significant change was the purchase of the new electric carts, replacing the seven year old gasoline carts. Mr. Stong stated there has been a \$38,000 year to date increase on cart rentals at Tiara Rado Golf Course, and a \$10,000 increase at Lincoln Park Golf Course. Rob Stong said the increased funds will allow for the golf courses to purchase new carts every four years. Mr. Stong commended Purchasing Manager, Jay Valentine, who championed the golf carts being purchased through the City's fleet program. Rob Stong said the new carts are receiving very good feedback. The discussion as to whether or not it made sense to replace all of the carts at the same time occurred. Doug Jones stated the new carts are rotated around, in order to spread out the wear and tear more evenly.

Rob Stong reported golf revenue is up approximately \$23,000 year to date. Mr. Stong said Tiara Rado is only down one tournament from last year, with a total of 22 tournaments. Lincoln Park has had a total of six tournaments year to date. Rob Stong discussed the success of the clubs,

stating there are now 90 members in the Thursday seniors club. The men's club currently has 300 members, with approximately 160 of the members teeing off every Thursday evening. The women's Club currently has 60-70 members playing on Wednesday mornings, and 50-60 members playing Wednesday evenings.

Mr. Stong discussed the staffing at the golf courses, stating there are now three PGA Class A professionals on staff, as Eloy Vendegna and Robert O'Hara were both elected to the Class A membership this year. Rob Stong stated there are several other golf employees who are currently in the apprentice program. Mr. Stong said the City will soon be posting for a new Director of Instruction, as Joe Dolan recently moved to Florida. Rob Stong said the plan is to hire a new Director of Instruction as soon as possible, due to the success and popularity of the program.

Doug Jones reported the rounds at both courses were down at the beginning of the year (down 3,500 at Tiara Rado and 2,000 at Lincoln Park) due to the snow cover. Mr. Jones stated Lincoln Park has not recovered much; however, he anticipates Tiara Rado will get most of their rounds back should the good weather continue through November and December. Currently Tiara Rado is only down 1,500 rounds compared to this time last year.

Doug Jones briefly discussed the aging of the infrastructure. Mr. Jones said staff had to shut down the irrigation pumps occasionally, due to the lack of water, stating there would be plenty of room to build a pump and store water between holes 10, 11, and 12. Doug Jones reported an additional \$4,000 has been spent this year on fungicides, as they have been spraying for the "fusarium spp" disease. Mr. Jones stated some of the greens will eventually have to be reseeded, which will reduce the amount and costs of water, fungicides, etc. Doug Jones stated, all in all, the grass is fine, and is looking very healthy going into winter. Mr. Jones stated it has been a hard summer to grow grass, but stated the new irrigation system at Lincoln Park is working well and has pumped the same amount of water it has in previous years, even though there were more days to pump this year. Doug Jones reported there have been multiple break-ins at the Tiara Rado Pro Shop this year and that a new door has been installed to prevent future break-ins. Doug Jones also reported there have been two fires in the pump house, and some asphalt damage due to tree roots. Dr. Findlay asked what the cross country skiing policy is for Tiara Rado Golf Course. Mr. Jones responded there has to be at least nine inches of snow before skiers will be permitted and that he usually tries to make a path for the skiers. Mr. Jones stated the main concern is regarding the damage skiers cause once the snow begins to melt.

Joe Stevens reported THK is in the final stages of evaluating the concept of an additional nine holes at Tiara Rado Golf Course, in conjunction with Matt Cunningham and Ed Sutton's proposed development program.

Item 4: Other Business

Joe Stevens reported City Council voted in favor of the one tier 2008 Parks and Recreation fees and charges policy. (Yes 6 No 0) Mr. Stevens discussed the cost recovery expectations, stating City Council has indicated staff should attempt to achieve a 70% overall cost recovery (not including Two Rivers Convention Center and the Avalon Theatre). Joe Stevens stated the Recreation Department currently averages 72-78% cost recovery. Rob Stong reported he had received very positive feedback from the golfers regarding the upcoming policy change.

Dr Findlay said he had recently attended one of the City's comprehensive growth plan meetings, stating this is a good time for the Board members to express their requests for additional parks and trails to be included in the plan. Joe Stevens agreed, reporting Jeff Winston, with Winston and Associates, is the main contact person for the City's comprehensive plan, and has been tasked with planning for the City's growing population. Mr. Stevens stated there will be a total of three meetings, depending on the community's involvement, for the purpose of discussing density, shopping, housing, trails and park systems, etc. Joe Stevens stated the City hopes to have a comprehensive plan in place within the next eighteen months.

Dennis Teeters reported the lines on the track are in need of repainting and said they are having a difficult time locating the man who normally does the painting. Don Hobbs stated the City has obtained informal bids from other companies, and the difference in price is \$60,000 versus the \$3,000 charged in the past. Dennis Teeters expressed the need for the repainting, stating it is getting very difficult for the competitors to locate the lines. Joe Stevens stated, although the Parks and Recreation Department experienced "sticker shock" regarding the current prices, the Department intends to restripe the track sometime before the 2008 track season.

Jack Scott asked for an update regarding Sally Schaefer's request to lease a portion of Las Colonias for the proposed recreation center. Joe Stevens reported Ms. Schaefer has requested to present at the November City Council meeting, in order to request a long term lease on 15 acres of the Las Colonias property be granted to the recreation center as a non profit organization. Mr. Stevens commended Sally Schaefer for her efforts, and stated the Recreation Department has not been asked to get involved with the project other than observing. Mr. Stevens stated the proposal is a very realistic alternative that fits in with the site's master plan, and should City Council agree, the proposal may be presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a recommendation. A brief discussion occurred regarding the proposed aquatics element of the recreation center, as it will be in close proximity of the Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool may have the potential to compete with the existing community pool. Joe Stevens indicated that the recreation center proposal may focus on the recreation/leisure component (e.g.; lazy river; zero depth entry) while the Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool is both recreational and competitive.

Item 5: Future Meetings Agenda

No items were discussed

Item 6: Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist