

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **January 18, 2007**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Dixon at 12:00 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Tom Dixon  
Lenna Watson  
Reford Theobold  
Jack Scott  
Nick Adams  
Dr. William Findlay

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Teeters  
Doug Thomason (Ex-Officio)

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director  
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
Shawn Cooper, Park Planner  
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent

Guests Present:

Melody Maitland

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

Jack Scott moved to approve the November 16, 2006 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Nick Adams seconded.

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

Please note: Dr Findlay was not present during the motion.

### **Item 3: Stocker Stadium/Suplizio Field Update**

Joe Stevens stated Mesa State has already begun construction on their new soccer field, which will be located on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Orchard Avenue, and that they are still researching artificial turf contractors. Mr. Stevens said staff is working with Mesa State, in hopes of obtaining a proposal that includes Stocker Stadium and Suplizio Field turf in conjunction with the soccer field. Mr. Stevens stated the project was opened for bids on January 17, 2007 and the finalists will be reviewed at the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Stevens said the project is still in the “exploratory” stage, and that the City would have to pursue financial participation from the other major users, such as JUCO, Mesa County School District 51, Mesa State, etc. Jack Scott asked if there truly was a public desire to replace the baseball field with artificial turf. Joe Stevens responded the public opinions have varied, stating some people are favoring it, while many of the coaches do not appear to support artificial turf. Mr. Stevens said the baseball field takes a big hit every year, as the games start in February and the turf is not ready for play until April. Discussion ensued regarding what, if any, college and/or pro baseball teams have artificial

turf. Don Hobbs stated the only pro stadium he is aware of with artificial turf is Tampa Bay. Tom Dixon asked if the option of piggy backing with Mesa State for the use of their soccer field was being considered. Nick Adams stated Mesa County School District is planning to use Mesa State's soccer field for many of their high school games. Mr. Adams expressed artificial turf would create numerous opportunities for additional recreational programming. Joe Stevens stated there are currently pros and cons for any kind of playing surface, briefly discussing maintenance and equipment concerns. Mr. Stevens discussed additional concerns with artificial turf, such as the annual graduation ceremonies, as chair legs can be very damaging to an artificial field and may void the warranty. The installation of artificial turf may require the purchase of some type of material to cover the turf for alternative events. Joe Stevens stated the bid packages should be ready for review sometime next week. Jack Scott asked for a comparison of the cost of purchasing artificial turf, which has to be replaced every ten years, versus the cost of maintaining the current fields. Joe Stevens stated the Recreation Department would have the opportunity to make up the difference by offering additional programming. Mr. Stevens stated the information will be reviewed at the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting and asked for representation from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Tom Dixon and Reford Theobald agreed to attend the next Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting.

#### **Item 4: Los Colonias Master Plan**

Joe Stevens stated staff is still trying to arrange for a joint meeting with City Council and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board in order to discuss current issues, including EDAW's recent Los Colonias master plan presentation. Shawn Cooper provided a brief overview of the conceptual plan (See attached), which derived from the public open houses that were held in December 2006. The open houses consisted of public feedback regarding a wide variety of issues, ranging from the main access, to how the parkway will affect the plan, and how the Botanical Gardens and downtown uses will impact the entire area. Mr. Cooper said the conceptual plan is attempting to capitalize on the connection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 27 ½ Road all into one park area, and includes a proposal to elevate the plaza area. Discussion ensued regarding pedestrian crossings and locations of such crossings. Shawn Cooper briefly discussed the tamarisk removal and control plan, which is also being included in the Las Colonias master plan. Joe Stevens stated EDAW has done a really good job capturing the ideas and imagination of everyone involved. Shawn Cooper stated that ex-Board member, David Detwiler, is now serving on the Recreation Center committee, and mentioned the Las Colonias site is being considered as a potential location for the proposed facility. Mr. Cooper stated the conceptual plan is currently on the agenda for the March 19, 2007 City Council workshop. Joe Stevens stated GOCO is discussing (still at the state level), the possibility of reinvigorating the legacy grant opportunities. Tom Dixon complimented EDAW, stating the conceptual plan public meetings included a lot of input from the public and was a good process overall.

#### **Item 5: Other Business**

Traci Altergott reported the kitchen remodel project at the Senior Recreation Center has now been completed, and the kitchen is now in compliance with all of the health codes. Traci Altergott stated the Senior Recreation Center Board members would like to extend an invitation to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members for an open house on February 15, 2006. (See attached invitation) The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be immediately following the open house at the Senior Recreation Center.

Traci Altergott also reported on the new distribution method for the seasonal activity guides, which began with the recently released “2007 Winter Spring Activity Guide”. The activity guides were previously mailed to approximately 52,000 households in the community. The new distribution method consists of “direct mailing” the activity guides to Parks & Recreation "customers" only. A customer is defined as anyone who has 1) registered through the Parks & Recreation office in the past two years, or 2) has reserved a park shelter and/or the Lincoln Park Barn in the past two years, or 3) has purchased a season golf pass in the past two years. If someone is new to town or is not a customer but would like to receive a guide, they may call the Parks & Recreation administration office to be added to the mailing list. The changes to the distribution method will reduce the cost drastically, as only 17,000 activity guides will now be mailed versus 52,000. Traci Altergott stated the new method will reduce the cost by approximately \$20,000, which can now be used towards other methods of marketing. Ms. Altergott said the department is very excited about exploring additional marketing opportunities.

Melody Maitland provided an update on the City Youth Council. Ms. Maitland stated there were an estimated 200 teens at the 2006 New Year’s Eve party. This number was low compared to last year’s number of 350. Melody Maitland stated the Council is working with Stacy Pike at the Bookcliff Activity Center, in hopes of planning a “Freaky Friday” event. Ms. Maitland said the Council recently cancelled the “Teen Night” events, due to low attendance and are currently brainstorming ideas to draw in more youth. Traci Altergott reported the City Youth Council donates all of the profits from the annual New Years’ Eve party to the Recreation Scholarship Fund. This year’s donation was approximately \$1,900. Ms. Altergott briefly discussed the successful funding of the scholarship program and said the Recreation Department intends to promote the scholarship fund more heavily in 2007.

Tom Dixon suggested moving the March Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting back a week due to spring break. The Board members agreed to reschedule the meeting for March 22, 2007.

**Item 6: Correspondence**

No correspondence items were discussed

**Item 7: Future Meetings Agenda**

No future agenda items were discussed

**Item 8: Adjourn**

Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lenna Watson moved and Reford Theobold seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist