

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes February 15, 2007**

## **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Vice Chair Dennis Teeters at 12:00 p.m.**

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Tom Dixon

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director  
Don Hobbs, Assistant Director  
Linda Friesen, Leisure Services Representative  
Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent  
Emily Wright, Recreation Supervisor  
Lorie Gregor, Recreation Leader

## **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Nick Adams moved to approve the January 18, 2007 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Reford Theobold seconded.

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

## **Item 3: Senior Recreation Center Overview/Improvements**

Emily Wright introduced Lorie Gregor, who replaced Butch Thorpe as the Recreation Coordinator for Seniors. Mrs. Wright reported on the newly renovated kitchen at the Senior Recreation Center (SRC), stating the renovation project was funded by the City of Grand Junction and has resulted in all of the plumbing and electrical being brought up to code. Emily Wright said the kitchen is not only used by the SRC, but is also used by the Gray Gourmet as a warming and serving center. Mrs. Wright stated the Senior Recreation Center has approximately 600 members and is open to any Mesa County resident for a \$5.00 annual membership fee.

## **Item 4: Stocker Stadium/Suplizio Field Update**

Doug Thomason provided an update on the artificial turf project at Stocker Stadium, stating the project will cost up to \$1 million. Mr. Thomason stated the entities involved have expressed concern that the longer they wait to make a decision the more the costs will increase. Reford Theobold, who attended the March 13, 2007 Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting, stated the cost savings was not materializing as well as they had hoped. Mr. Theobold said the unknown

soil conditions, as well as surrounding areas that may need attention, will increase the cost from \$600,000 to \$1 million. Reford Theobald discussed the preliminary commitments from the numerous entities involved. Doug Thomason stated the project is still in the discussion stage and that nothing final has been determined at this time.

Joe Stevens stated there were a total of four bids on Mesa State's soccer complex with Co-creations submitting the apparent lowest bid (approximately \$600,000, excluding any costs related to the soil conditions). Mr. Stevens stated he predicts the project will cost right at or under \$1 million. Don Hobbs informed the committee the Keiwit Building Group's total did not include the flag area, long jump, triple jump, and high jump areas. Joe Stevens stated the project will not be very disruptive, as the concept is to begin in late June and will be completed in time for football season. Discussion ensued regarding the lifetime of the turf. Joe Stevens stated the manufacturer states it will last ten years and the standard warranty is for eight. Nick Adams asked if the "maintenance" for the field was included in the costs. Joe Stevens responded the costs do not include any type of maintenance fees whatsoever. Mr. Stevens stated the City may also want to consider purchasing a cover for the field to be used in order to prevent damage to the field during "other" usages, such as graduations. (Damage could potentially occur from chairs, bleachers, high heels, etc.) Joe Stevens said the Shrine Circus is already aware they will have to find an alternate location for their annual event. Lenna Watson asked if there was truly a need for a cover and questioned whether or not the pros of artificial turf outweigh the cons. Nick Adams expressed, from a football stand point, and with the possibility of two more schools being built in the grand valley, synthetic turf will indeed be a "necessity". The multiple benefits of artificial turf were discussed, including the possibility of the City being able to schedule "back to back" games, as well as being able to accommodate soccer needs (although soccer is not really a factor in the decision, as Mesa State is currently building a soccer field for college and high school use). Dennis Teeters asked about what changes, if any, would be made to the track area. Joe Stevens stated the City would defer the decisions regarding the track to the actual users. Discussion ensued regarding what the track needs may or may not be, including whether or not a steeple chase and/or pole vault area should be considered at this time. Mr. Stevens discussed the fact that the project is a "design build" concept, which does result in some risks. Joe Stevens expressed, if there are some concerns, ideas, and/or additional items the Board members feel should be included in the design, "now" is the time for them to come forward and make their recommendations to City Council.

Jack Scott moved for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to support an active effort of obtaining more information in order to move forward with the installation of synthetic turf at Stocker Stadium. Reford Theobald seconded.

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

Discussions took place regarding the significant maintenance issues, including the need for a water system used to cool down and to flush out/clean the turf. Don Hobbs stated synthetic turf occasionally has problems with static when sprayed down and requires the application of a fabric softener. Mr. Hobbs also said some of the biggest concerns with artificial turf are chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds. Nick Adams asked what other uses the recreation department would use the field for. Traci Altergott stated currently, Rattlesnake field at Canyon View Park is the only lighted soccer field in town for adult soccer; therefore, there is a very strong need for an additional lighted facility. Ms. Altergott discussed GMYSA's desire for additional fields, as well as the scheduling obstacles that occur once flag football season begins and field availability is reduced

even further. Nick Adams recommended the synthetic turf project include the soccer element, stating it would make more sense to include soccer “now” than to try to add it at a later date.

Reford Theobald moved to recommend the artificial turf at Stocker Stadium be lined for soccer in addition to football. Nick Adams seconded.

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

Joe Stevens stated artificial turf will most likely increase the use of the stadium; therefore, everyone involved should be aware that the increase in usage is going to result in additional issues that will need addressed, such as parking, inadequate stands, the need for more concessions, etc. Mr. Stevens stated the project may create additional pressure and the City may have to review the Lincoln Park master plan as a whole. Dennis Teeters agreed, stating one of the biggest concerns is the lack of parking. Nick Adams stated one of the biggest hurdles for the Parks & Recreation Department is going to be how to handle the scheduling, as this will allow for back to back turn around, causing, in a sense, a “scheduling nightmare” with regards to determining the amount of time in between each game, addressing overtime issues, etc.

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

Dennis Teeters commended the Parks and Recreation staff on the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade basketball program.

Doug Thomason reported the joint City Council and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 19, 2007. Councilman Thomason asked whether or not the Board would still want to have their regular scheduled meeting that same week as well. Reford Theobald expressed concern that the meeting was scheduled for the Monday following spring break, stating there was no school on that day. The Board members agreed they would plan on attending both meetings. Discussion took place regarding preparation for the joint meeting. Jack Scott recommended discussing the implementation of a five year plan in hopes of moving forward on the development of additional parks.

#### **Item 6: Future Meetings Agenda**

#### **Item 7: Adjourn**

Vice Chair Dennis Teeters asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Friesen  
Leisure Services Representative