

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes June 11, 2009

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 11:46 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Lenna Watson
 Reford Theobold
 Jack Scott
 Dr. William Findlay
 Tawny Espinoza
 Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: David McInay
 Yvette Carnine

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Schoeber, Director
 Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
 Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent
 Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent
 Doug Jones, Golf Superintendent

Guests:

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Lenna Watson requested a correction in the paragraph regarding Horizon Park, stating it should read her homeowner's association "plans" to meet. Jack Scott moved to approve the May 7, 2009 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes with the above correction. Reford Theobold seconded.

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

Jack Scott asked about the status of the Burkey Park master plan. Rob Schoeber responded City staff had originally put together a timeline and intended to present an in-house master plan and cost estimates at the last City/County joint meeting. Unfortunately, the meeting had been canceled and has not been rescheduled at this time.

Item 3: Lincoln Park Design Workshop

Rob Schoeber reported the VA Hospital's Chief of Staff called him a few months ago concerned about the amount of golf balls landing in their employee parking lot. Since that time, City Council has received a formal request from the VA Hospital for the City to review the costs and determine a way to eliminate the problem. In addition, Rob Schoeber recently received a letter from an adjacent homeowner with similar complaints. Mr. Schoeber stated the problem is not easy to fix; however, the City is in the process of looking for ways to solve the issue both short and long term. Doug Jones briefly discussed a

couple of things that have recently made the situation worse, including the VA's loss of an agreement with Teller Arms for their employee to park in the shopping center's parking lot, and the loss of a very large cottonwood tree that was hit by lightning approximately 1 ½ years ago.

The Board members were taken on a tour of the golf course to review the problem areas and assist in determining potential resolutions. Upon returning, discussion ensued, resulting in the following suggestions:

- Sharing the cost with the VA Hospital to install a net over their parking lot. Numerous issues with netting were discussed, such as snow load, leaves, etc., as well as the fact that a net will only solve the problem for the VA Hospital, and does not address issues for the adjacent homeowners and/or North Avenue.
- Taller netting around course. Discussion ensued regarding the concern this would set precedence, as the surrounding neighborhoods and North Avenue might also demand netting. This option would also be very expensive, as the City would have to drive pilings for the poles due to the water table. Bruce Hill stated, should the City decide to partner with the VA Hospital for the cost of netting, they could present the same offer to "share the cost" for homeowners and/or North Avenue businesses.
- Changing course to consist of all three holes
- Relocating the tee box on #5 (moving it forward). Doug Jones said this was a possibility, although it would not be popular with the golfers. Mr. Jones also said something would have to be put in place where the old tee box was or golfers would still tee off from the original location.
- Move the green to the other side of the trees in hopes of forcing golfers to use the driving range. Doug Jones said the driving range is already too short and there would not be any protection for the golfers. In addition, the driving range pays for the pro shop; therefore, it would not be cost effective to take it out.
- Planting more trees, although new trees will take years before they have grown large enough to make a considerable difference.
- To reduce the impact on North Avenue, shift green, cut tee off, and shorten the tee, which would still provide a par 5 and par 3.
- Sand traps to discourage long drives. Doug Jones stated this would help; however, the majority of the stray balls are from golfers who truly "don't care", as they are solely attempting to hit the ball as hard as possible.
- Reverse the course, although it was determine the cost would be extremely high, possibly even cheaper to move the course to a completely different location.
- Taller netting around course. Changing #2 to a par 3, shorten it in front of the lake, turn #3 into a longer 4, building new green and new tee, but changing drives to different angle. Doug Jones said this suggestion may be a potential option, although expensive, it would not cost nearly as much as changing the direction of the entire course. The Board members expressed what an interesting concept it is to reverse the direction around the lake. Mr. Jones agreed, and said the option of basically "playing a loop" could be pursued further by the golf architect.
- Eloy Vendegna stated #2 is always going to remain a problem if left unchanged, suggesting playing #2 from the 5 tee box, making it a long par 4. This option would allow more room to the right and more room for the ball to travel; however, would only help with shots, not slices.

Discussion ensued regarding the multiple options, as well as the estimated costs. Doug Jones said, if staff is allowed to wait until winter, the changes could be made for approximately \$3,000-\$4,000 per

tee box. The “reverse play” option would consist of moving the greens at a cost of approximately \$60,000-\$70,000 each.

Item 4: Project Updates

Rob Schoeber stated the bid for the Melrose Park restroom was awarded last week. The Canyon View tennis court project was been completed, just in time for the Elam Classic Tournament. Mr. Schoeber also reported JUCO had another successful season this year, regardless of the large amount of rain.

Rob Schoeber discussed a recent article in the paper regarding EPA concerns with using crushed rubber in playgrounds. The crushed rubber product is currently used at Duck Pond Park, Canyon View Park, Chipeta Elementary School, and the artificial football field at Stocker Stadium. Mr. Schoeber said the product has historically been endorsed by the EPA, who has now decided to retest the product. The City of Grand Junction had the Stocker Stadium turf tested over a year ago, at which time the lead levels were extremely low, with the only real concern involving “ingestion”.

Rob Schoeber reported on current discussions taking place about Westlake Park, stating the staff may be moving the disc golf course to the undeveloped area on the West end of the park. There have recently been some issues regarding the location of the holes (proximity of playground, Frisbees on canal bank, etc.); however, the disc golf group has proven to be an easy group to work with. The Parks and Recreation Department intends to have a neighborhood meeting in June to discuss the possible options and request the public’s input.

Item 5: Other Business

Mike Vendegna reported on a recent request from the Super Rad Art Jam group who held an event last year at Eagle Rim Park. The group has requested to do another artwork project this year, only they want to paint the actual skate bowls versus sheets of plywood. Mr. Vendegna stated studies have shown there tends to be less graffiti when there is actual artwork painted on the bowls, and discussed how beautiful the artwork was last year. In addition, the group has offered to paint over the bowls, at their own expense, should the artwork get damaged, and will repaint new artwork each year. Mike Vendegna stated staff is in support of this idea and said the group has a website for viewing last year’s artwork. The Board members agreed the project was successful last year and said the group should be allowed to expand the project to the bowls this year. In addition, the group has expressed an interest in painting the ABC’s along the wall at Duck Pond Park for the elementary kids. Mike Vendegna said the group will share pictures of the proposed project for the Board’s review, should they decide to pursue the option further.

Item 6: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist