

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes July 9, 2009

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 12:14 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Lenna Watson
Reford Theobald
Jack Scott
Dr. William Findlay
Tawny Espinoza
David McInay
Yvette Carnine

Board Members Absent: Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Schoeber, Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent
Larry Manchester, Recreation Supervisor
Shon Birch, Recreation Coordinator

Guests: Brooke Hudson, Boston's Pizza

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the June 11, 2009 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Tawny Espinoza seconded.

Motion adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 7 No 0

Item 3: Outstanding Partner Recognition

With each Activity Guide, the Parks and Recreation Department recognizes a contributing partner who goes above and beyond the call of duty. Shon Birch stated Boston's Pizza has been selected as this season's "outstanding partner". In 2005, Boston's Pizza approached the Parks and Recreation Department asking how they could get involved. Since that time, they have made a wide range of donations, including pizzas for the youth basketball staff, reducing the program's operating expenses and allowing the City to maintain low fees. In total, the restaurant has donated approximately \$14,276 worth of food, gift cards, etc. Shon Birch introduced Brooke Hudson, one of the Managers of Boston's Pizza, and presented her with the "Outstanding Partner" award. The Board members also extended their gratitude for Boston's Pizza's generosity.

Item 4: Westlake Park Follow-up

Dr. William Findlay reported on the public meeting recently held at Westlake Park, stating several issues were discussed regarding two or three of the disc golf holes. Dr. Findlay said there was a fairly large crowd in attendance and that the majority of the neighbors like the disc golfers. Dave McInay, who was also at the neighborhood meeting, expressed he was also surprised at the amount of people in attendance, and commended the staff for hosting such a productive meeting. Mr. McInay said disc golf continues to increase and said this is an excellent opportunity to develop a partnership with the users to explore resolutions for the existing issues. Rob Schoeber agreed, stating the disc golf group has proven to be very easy to work with and has been very responsive to the neighborhood's issues and concerns. Mr. Schoeber discussed the sports continued growth, stating the disc golf courses should have signs to notify the new players of the rules and/or etiquette. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in order to discuss the design of several of the holes on the West end. The City does not currently have any funding for the changes; however, the disc golf group has expressed they should be able to do the majority of the work themselves. In addition, the group hopes to pursue several inexpensive obstacles similar to what they are seeing in other areas. Tawny Espinoza stated Live Well may be able to help with the funding, due to the project's physical activity element. Dr. William Findlay suggested pursuing an alternative material versus concrete to allow for moving the holes whenever necessary. Dr. Findlay also questioned whether or not other sites are being considered for additional disc golf courses, stating Watson Island might be a good location.

The Board members requested the next meeting be held at Westlake Park.

Item 5: CIP Discussion

Mike Vendegna reported on the 2010 CIP budget, stating staff is taking a very proactive approach by focusing on "safety" and community "needs" only. The budget will include a replacement/repair program, with designated replacement dates for items such as playgrounds. This program will allow for greater flexibility when dealing with "safety" issues. Mike Vendegna said the Department's 2010 budget requests are very limited; however, they will include items such as the critical irrigation repairs needed at Spring Valley Park II, due to the recent discovery that the line from the lake is actually a storm/sewer line. Additional requests include the minimal cost of moving some of the Parks crews from Lincoln Park to the Riverside Parkway Building, which will free up ground/buildings for the golf course, as well as completing the parking area South of the baseball field at Canyon View Park. Traci Wieland briefly reported on the \$8,800 USTA grant for completing the Canyon View Park tennis complex. Tawny Espinoza stated Live Well would love to discuss the option of planting a "community garden" in any unused areas of Canyon View Park, and also discussed the need for "family" restrooms in City parks.

Traci Wieland also reported Grand Junction has recently submitted an application and video as a candidate for the USTA Best Tennis Town Award. Once the top ten cities have been selected, the winner will be determined by a public vote on the Internet. Traci Wieland stated the \$100,000 grand prize must be used towards facility improvements, stating the Department would love build a restroom/shelter near the Lincoln Park tennis courts. This type of project would not only benefit the tennis community, but would provide a facility for a much larger population, including track, special events, shelter reservations, etc.

The Board briefly discussed the ongoing vandalism and the cost involved with the reoccurring damages. Dr. William Findlay suggested implementing some type of an award system for citizens who report vandalism. Tawny Espinoza suggested the possibility of exploring neighborhood clean-up programs.

Item 6: Project Updates

Mike Vendegna reported on the rapid progress being made at Melrose Park, stating the new restroom is currently under construction, and said the contractor recently stated they would also be interested in relocating, sandblasting, and repainting the rocket. Bids have gone out for the playground; once the bids have been received, a neighborhood group will be selected to review the designs.

Traci Wieland reported on the status of the City Center Catalyst project, which will include multiple organizations such as the Senior Recreation Center, Gray Gourmet, and the public library. The involved organizations have worked to form a plan together and have recently applied for a community development block grant. Mrs. Wieland said the Parks and Recreation Department will invite representatives from the consulting group (PUMA) to a future Board meeting in order to review the plans in detail.

Reford Theobald expressed concern regarding the Department not looking at the “big picture” regarding the irrigation at Spring Valley Park, stating they should avoid setting precedence. Mike Vendegna responded the issue is not with using “irrigation water” it’s the fact the water is going through the storm sewer. Discussion ensued, with the Board agreeing to discuss the issue further at a later date.

Item 7: Other Business

Rob Schoeber reported on a recent City Council discussion regarding the numerous community boards. Mr. Schoeber said the Council members are very supportive of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and expressed the Board is the “eyes and ears” of the community. Rob Schoeber said City Council is very appreciative of the Board’s commitment to the City of Grand Junction.

Item 8: Future Meetings Agenda

Election of Officers

Item 9: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist