

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes September 3, 2009

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 12:08 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Yvette Carnine
Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

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

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the August 6, 2009 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dave McInay seconded.

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

Item 3: Fees and Charges

Rob Schoeber discussed the department's proposed 2010 Fees and Charges, stating the information was presented to City Council on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. There are a total of three areas with proposed changes:

1. Staff is recommending eliminating the cemetery's development fee, which is currently assessed to all grave spaces purchased prior to 1986. Mr. Schoeber stated the unnecessary fee puts staff in an awkward position with families who are under the assumption there would not be any additional fees since they already own the space. Individuals who purchased spaces prior to 1986 were "not" notified of the extra fee at the time of its implementation, therefore, are unaware of the fee until they come to make use of the grave space. Rob Schoeber stated there are only about 40 occurrences of this fee per year and said since it is not a significant revenue generator, it is not worth charging families the "unexpected" fee during such difficult times. If approved by Council, the fee will be eliminated effective January 1, 2010.

2. Staff is recommending a 40% reduction in the facility rental fees at the Bookcliff Activity Center. In comparison to other facilities, it was determined the fees at Bookcliff Activity Center are currently much higher for daily and hourly facility rentals.
3. Golf green fees will remain the same in 2010; however, staff is recommending a 4% increase for annual golf passes. All customers will continue to have the option to buy their 2010 golf pass at the 2009 rates, if purchased by December 31, 2009.

Tawny Espinoza commented on the current price of the Lincoln Park – Moyer Pool splash pad, stating the fee is fairly high for parents who are bringing infants to the splash pad for short periods of time. Mrs. Espinoza referred to a recent visit in which she brought her child and paid the adult fee of \$4.75 plus the infant fee of \$1, while they only stayed for ½ hour. (Her mother watched from outside the fence because she didn't want to pay the \$4.75 pool admission fee.) Tawny Espinoza suggested implementing a wrist band program, similar to the water slide, for individuals who are just watching and/or using the splash pad, allowing them to pay a reduced rate versus the full admission price. Traci Wieland stated she would discuss this issue with staff and research options for accommodating similar customers.

Reford Theobald moved to approve the proposed changes to the 2010 Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges. Jack Scott seconded.

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

Item 4: Super Rad Art Jam Update

Mike Vendegna discussed the 2009 Super Rad Art Jam, stating it was a huge success that produced exceptional artwork. The event drew lots of artists and large crowds, to the point of making it difficult to find a place to watch from. Mr. Vendegna reported the artists are already policing their artwork as promised, and have already had to remove some graffiti. Mike Vendegna suggested the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board consider formally acknowledging the group for the work they are doing. Rob Schoeber stated recognition could include bringing the group back to a future board meeting, or perhaps at a City Council meeting. Mr. Schoeber also said he would look into doing some sort of recognition through Lowe's and/or Home Depot. Since the group is self funded, a gift card could really help offset their costs.

Mr. Schoeber expanded on the Eagle Rim Park topic by sharing an email recently received from a neighbor of the park. The individual who lives on Acoma Drive stated they regularly walk their dog at Eagle Rim Park and highly complimented staff on the park's maintenance. The neighbor commented, given the economic status, they would have expected the park's appearance to suffer, yet stated that has not been the case at all. Rob Schoeber said the letter was very complimentary of the park workers and their hard work.

Item 5: Melrose Park Update

Traci Wieland reported there will be a Melrose Park meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at the Orchard Avenue Elementary School library. The main purpose for the meeting is to review finalists for the playground design, in which the community members will be invited to judge the components of the playground from several different aspects, including safety, accessibility, tot lots, etc. The meeting will also include an update on the status of the construction project, and will address the

funding from LiveWell Colorado for the installation of an outside exercise area. Mrs. Wieland expressed Melrose Park is truly going to be a premier park once completed. Mr. Vendegna updated the Board on the restroom construction, stating the heating units have been installed and the plumbing and electrical work is almost done. Once the new restroom building is finished and open to the public the old building will be completely removed, in order to begin working on the playground.

Item 6: Project Updates

Mr. Vendegna updated the group on the work scheduled to begin at Canyon View Park mid next week. Staff will be working with the Street Department to develop a gravel parking lot located directly South of the baseball field and North of the existing tennis court parking lot. The Street Department has donated their used chip seal gravel to help the parks crew finish from the undeveloped area. Parks crews will also be installing split rail fence, landscaping, and trees to create a border. While the project will not result in a formal “paved” parking lot, it will create approximately 150 additional parking spaces. Mike Vendegna reported crews will also be planting approximately 126 trees along I-70 as a buffer.

Additional work is being completed in the Watson Island section along the Riverfront Trail area. The Tamarisk Coalition recently secured a grant from the Lion’s Club for the installation of four additional benches. Park crews are also about to begin working on the landscaping of the City shops on Riverside Parkway.

Rob Schoeber updated the Board about a possible purchase of a 4 ½ acres property located at the Southeast corner of Canyon View Park. While the City was not initially interested in the property, it has been determined the Fire Department is in need of an additional fire station in that area of town. A station at this site would also benefit the athletic events at Canyon View Park, as there would be an EMS close by versus having to request them to be on “stand-by” for sporting events. There are also two undeveloped acres that would be ideal for additional parking and a restroom building at Canyon View Park. The City’s property committee has recommended the staff engage in conversations with the property owner; however, the City is moving forward cautiously due to the current asking price.

Item 7: Other Business

The existing parking issues at Canyon View Park were discussed, along with the fact that additional split rail fencing is going to be installed to deter cars from parking on the grass.

Rob Schoeber commended the Parks crews for their hard work on the North Avenue median project that was completed at night in order to cause as minimal disruption to traffic flow as possible. The project consisted of numerous broken irrigation lines and other issues that had to be quickly corrected.

Discussion ensued regarding the water temperature at Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool. The water is kept cooler, as the lap swimmers prefer it colder, while many other patrons prefer the water to be a little warmer. Traci Wieland stated the water temperature is often a struggle and said staff continually strives to find a happy medium. The Board members discussed the impact the upcoming public swimming pool at Mesa State College could potentially have on the City of Grand Junction’s swimming pools. Tawny Espinoza reported the LiveWell office will be located near the new pool and is working with MSC to obtain a discounted admission for its members.

Rob Schoeber reported on a recent meeting with Sally Schaefer regarding the Grand Valley Recreation Center movement. Mrs. Schaefer would like to have the City take a more active lead in the project; however, the City is hesitant to lead the project as they are unable to make any financial commitments.

Rob Schoeber also discussed the Burkey Park master plan that is being developed internally. Additional park master plans will not be completed until the City's Comprehensive Plan has been adopted.

Lenna Watson thanked the Parks crews, on behalf of her neighborhood, for their recent work at Horizon Park, including trimming, path work, and beautification.

Item 8: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist