

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

November 5, 2009

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Lenna Watson
Reford Theobald
Dr. William Findlay
Tawny Espinoza
David McInay
Jack Scott
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
Doug Jones, Golf Superintendent
Emily Wright, Recreation Supervisor
Stacy Pike, Recreation Coordinator

Guests:

Dan Rotherham
Bonnie Lightfoot
Kathy Schoenfeld

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the October 1, 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 Park Partner Presentation – Stop ‘n Save

Recreation Coordinator Stacy Pike welcomed Stop n’ Save representatives Dan Rotherham, Bonnie Lightfoot, and Kathy Schoenfeld. Ms. Pike discussed Stop n’ Save’s ongoing support and dedication to Parks and Recreation’s programs and events, continually providing the Department the ability to offer programs at lower costs. Stacy Pike stated Stop n’ Save is a wonderful community member who has made a significant difference in programming. Mrs. Pike presented Dan Rotherham with an “Outstanding Partner” award, stating Stop n’ Save continues to push the Parks and Recreation Department to do more. Dan Rotherham expressed his appreciation for the award, and said he looks forward to partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department for more events in the future. Lenna Watson thanked the Stop n’ Save representatives, on behalf of the board, also expressing appreciation for their continued support.

Item 4: GOCO Celebration

Rob Schoeber reminded the Board members of GOCO's 15 year celebration event taking place at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at Two Rivers Convention Center. The event will include a brief celebration followed by a strategic planning session. Discussions will include the possibility of increasing GOCO grant funding amounts. Lenna Watson encouraged Board member attendance at the upcoming celebration.

Item 5: Rocket Park Update

Rob Schoeber began by thanking Lenna Watson and Yvette Carnine for their attendance at the City Council meeting and for publically showing their support for the "Rocket Park" name change. Mr. Schoeber reported the new shelter is a beautiful, top quality facility. Mike Vendegna reported the rocket is currently on the ground being repainted, with installation scheduled for the end of next week. The contributor signs (GOCO, LiveWell, Desert Vista Garden Club, and the City) are currently out to bid and will be installed underneath the rocket once completed. The playground has been ordered and, once received, will be installed as soon as the weather permits. Traci Wieland reported she had recently met with the Math and Science Center, who is interested in completing some type of interactive project at Rocket Park. The organization hopes to put together some concepts and present them to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in the near future.

Item 6: Lincoln Park Golf Course Update

Doug Jones provided a brief update on the modifications being made at the Lincoln Park Golf Course. The new trees have been planted, included numerous cottonwood trees at holes #4 and #5. Staff is currently moving forward with the plans and have already received several comments from golfers who like the new look. Dr. William Findlay suggested liability signs be placed at each of the problem holes, versus just at the beginning of the course. The project should be completed by early May 2010. Doug Jones also reported rounds at Lincoln Park are high this year, and said, weather permitting; it could be the first time in decades Lincoln Park exceeds the previous year's rounds.

Item 7: Tiara Rado Golf Course Update

Doug Jones reported on the irrigation project at Tiara Rado Golf Course, stating the main line is almost complete on the front nine, with the exception of under the roads. Mr. Jones stated City Council recently approved the dirt work and golf specialty portions of the project, which will require a storm water management and state permit. The new irrigation system will provide the course with a 7 - 8 day supply of water, and will reduce costs as the course will only need one irrigation employee versus two. (Doug Jones does not intend to replace an irrigation employee who will soon be retiring.) In addition, the system is designed for water conversation, as it will provide for individual head control. Rob Schoeber said the project financing is structured to be paid off in 15 years and said there is a backup plan to use conservation trust funds should it ever be necessary to do so.

Item 8: Project Updates

Rob Schoeber reported on the \$400,000 cemetery complex project, which has been a struggle due the recent budget challenges. Mr. Schoeber discussed the poor conditions of the existing buildings, stating the proposed project would consist of an all inclusive combination shop and maintenance building. The

project went out to bid and came back \$100,000 less than projected. The project was then presented to the Department Head group for discussion, at which time they unanimously agreed “now” is the best time to move forward considering the extremely low bid from a “local” contractor, and the fact the cemetery drastically needs the improvements. In addition, the old buildings are currently located in a prime area for grave sales, providing an opportunity for the cemetery to generate additional revenue once the buildings are leveled. Mike Vendegna stated the project has an aggressive time schedule, stating the ground breaking has already taken place and the contractor is pouring concrete today. The building is scheduled for completion on February 13, 2010. Upon completion, a portion of Parks Operations will be relocated to the cemetery, with the majority of the crews being moved out of Lincoln Park by early spring.

Mike Vendegna briefly reported on Canyon View Parks’ new 200 space parking lot, stating the project is scheduled to be completed within the next month. Mr. Vendegna suggested the Parks and Recreation Board meet at Canyon View Park sometime in the near future, providing an opportunity for the Board members to see the numerous park improvements (parking, fences, landscaping, etc.).

Mike Vendegna said the water at Crown Point Cemetery has been approved and the irrigation system will soon be installed. Rob Schoeber reported on a man who has made two donations to the cemetery the past couple years (\$30,000 per year), stating the same man (Maurice Kent) just surprised the City last week with a third donation of \$30,000. Mr. Schoeber said his generous contributions have allowed the City to hire a seasonal maintenance worker, who has made a significant difference in the cemetery’s appearance. Lenna Watson suggested the Board invite Mr. Kent to a future meeting to recognize him for the donations; however, Mike Vendegna stated he lives in California, so he plans to send him updates, including pictures of the improvements, irrigation plans, etc.

Rob Schoeber reported staff will be meeting in two weeks to develop an internal master plan for Burkey Park. Mr. Schoeber stated he had intended to budget for the full master plan, yet had to delay the plan in order to prevent getting ahead of the City and County’s comprehensive plan. Rob Schoeber said GOCO’s talk of possibly increasing their grant monies, could provide for an opportunity to make some significant improvements at Burkey Park. The goal is to start with infrastructure improvements, such as turf and irrigation, allowing the ability to easily move forward as additional funding becomes available.

Item 9: Other Business

Rob Schoeber said the Department is also in the process of updating the Facilities Guide, which will include all parks amenities combined with the Forestry Tree Guide, listing species and pictures. The end product will provide the public with a more all inclusive and user friendly resource.

Traci Wieland reported the Department recently redesigned the Parks and Recreation website. The new website is much more user friendly, providing easy access to program registrations and facility availability. The Department is hoping the customers will respond well to the changes and that Internet registration rates will begin to increase.

Traci Wieland reported she has not heard back from the Disc Golf group regarding their previously committed “work days”. The Department will have to move forward with the course changes regardless, due to the safety issues related to holes #6 and #7. Lenna Watson requested the Disc Golf group’s contact information, in order for the Board members to be able to encourage the group to move forward with scheduling the much needed work days.

Lenna Watson suggested the next Board meeting consist of a tour of the park improvements, including Rocket Park and Canyon View Park.

Item 10: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist