

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes December 3, 2009

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 11:42 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Lenna Watson
 Reford Theobald
 Dr. William Findlay
 Tawny Espinoza
 David McInay
 Jack Scott
 Yvette Carnine
 Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

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

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the November 5, 2009 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dave McInay seconded.

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

Item 3: Wingate PTA Request

Lenna Watson began discussions regarding the November 14, 2009 letter from Wingate PTA Co-President, Summer Kennedy. (See attached) Mike Vendegna reported there are numerous options of honoring Judy Gustafson, including the traditional memorial tree program, in which a tree would be planted along with an 18" x 24" granite plaque. The memorial bench program is also a very popular option. The cost for the memorial tree is \$350; the bench would be an additional \$800.00. Mike Vendegna stated the PTA would have to cover the costs; however, the City would be willing to waive the installation fees. Tawny Espinoza stated the PTA could also pursue recognition through Mesa County's LiveWell program, in which they would feature the retiring gym teacher as a community member who has focused on improving the health of our community. Discussion ensued, with the Board requesting staff to send a letter providing the alternative options. Lenna Watson suggested the letter also be sent to the Principal at Wingate Elementary and Steve Phillips.

Item 4: Project Updates

Mike Vendegna commended the Parks crews for their hard work, stating he had developed a list of 27 projects a few months ago that needed finished by the end of the year. Mr. Vendegna said the crews took on the various projects at full speed and completed the list in remarkable time.

The cemetery building's foundation has been poured, the parking lot is complete, and the entire concrete floor is in. Mike Vendegna stated the building structure should be going up in the next couple of weeks.

Doug Jones reported the back nine at Tiara Rado Golf Course was shut down on Monday, and said the first pond is currently being built. In addition, all of the front main lines and 95% of the laterals have been installed. Due to the construction, the golf course will be offering reduced rates until the end of February. Mr. Jones stated he has not received any complaints regarding the construction, and said many of the golfers have expressed their appreciation of the upcoming improvements. An open house is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009 to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions, review the drawings, etc. Doug Jones discussed the planned tree removals, stating the majority of the trees are damaged, and said staff intends to replace the trees with more than they remove. Mike Vendegna stated Tiara Rado's current irrigation system has over 1,500 sprinkler heads, in which Park crews are removing to rebuild and use as replacement heads throughout many of the City parks, resulting in a long term cost savings for the City.

Doug Jones reported Bret Daniels with Cudd Pumping Services recently donated 500 tons of sand to the Parks Department, stating the sand will be put to good use throughout the parks system (volleyball courts, horse shoe pits, etc.). Staff used City trucks to haul the sand and is very appreciative of the generous donation.

Bruce Hill provided a brief City Council update, stating the 2010 budget was approved at the November 30, 2009 meeting. Mr. Hill discussed how the budget process engages the entire organization, especially when it includes such a high volume of personnel and operational cuts. (Personnel cuts included 40 positions that were not filled in 2009.) Bruce Hill commended staff on the city wide effort, which resulted in significant reductions across the board. Discussion ensued regarding the numerous challenges facing our community and additional funding options available to the City, such as stimulus money, grants, etc. Reford Theobold discussed grant opportunities, stating GOCO often require "matching" funds, which is becoming more and more difficult for communities. Lenna Watson stated GOCO is also planning to focus on outdoor educational projects specific to "youth".

Item 5: Park Tour

The Board members went on a tour to see the new developments at Lincoln Park Golf Course, Rocket Park, and Canyon View Park.

Item 6: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist

November 14, 2009

To: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Attention: Rob Schoeber

Dear Mr. Schoeber:

I am writing this letter to request that a city park in Grand Junction be renamed for someone very special to me and countless others. The park that I am referring to is Wingate Park and the person I am speaking of is Judy Gustafson. Judy has been a teacher in Mesa County Valley School District #51 for 30 years and will retire in May of 2010. She has spent the vast majority of her teaching years at Wingate Elementary teaching Physical Education and a few years at a middle school in the valley. She is a master teacher who shows her students love and respect daily. Not only was she my P.E. teacher when I was a youngster, but she is now my daughters' teacher. Judy doesn't just teach her students, she is also willing to share her knowledge with new and student teachers. She is a source of knowledge, history, wisdom, and energy at that school.

In addition to teaching, she has also organized the "Jump Rope for Heart" fundraiser for Wingate each year and has raised several thousands of dollars for The American Heart Association. She has taught kids the love of game, sport, and physical exercise.

Judy is a very deserving candidate for renaming this park in her honor. I write this letter on behalf of several family members of mine who strongly encourage you to consider this request. I would like to keep this a secret from Judy until we have final confirmation and possibly an unveiling in the spring. Please let me know of anything further that I can do on my part to progress this matter. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Summer Kennedy
Wingate PTA Co-President
242-5596 or 260-5358