

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes January 8, 2009**

## **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 12:04 p.m.**

### Roll Call

Board Members Present:                   Lenna Watson  
  Reford Theobold  
  Tawny Espinoza  
  Yvette Carnine  
  Jack Scott  
  Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:                   Dr. William Findlay  
  David McInay

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

## **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

Jack Scott moved to approve the December 4, 2008 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Tawny Espinoza seconded.

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

## **Item 3: Fees and Charges**

Rob Schoeber distributed the proposed changes for the 2009 Parks and Recreation fees and charges. (See attached) Mr. Schoeber asked the Board members to review the information and bring any questions and/or concerns to the next meeting. Rob Schoeber stated the Department is attempting to simplify the fee structure, in hopes of making it easier for the public to take advantage of Parks and Recreation facilities.

Doug Jones briefly discussed the proposed 8% increase in golf fees, stating the increase is primarily due to rising operating costs. Mr. Jones stated the golf course typically raises the prices 4% per year. Discussion ensued regarding the current fees for special events held by the School District and Mesa State, such as graduation ceremonies. Bruce Hill stated both organizations pay Parks Improvement Advisory Board dues, which is considered when determining their fees. Traci Wieland discussed the successful facility tradeoffs between the School District and Parks and Recreation.

Bruce Hill also discussed the success of the synthetic turf project, which has saved a considerable amount of money in man hours (watering, mowing, etc.). Mr. Hill said these types of projects are also a significant factor when reviewing the fees for School District and Mesa State. Traci Wieland briefly

reported on the synthetic turf, stating the port-a-floor was fairly difficult to install the first year. Mrs. Wieland stated the manufacturer will be sending a representative to assist this year, in hopes of reducing the assembly time. Traci Wieland stated the crews will have a smaller time period to install the floor this year, as there is a regional track meet scheduled the weekend prior to the graduation ceremonies. Mrs. Wieland said the School District is also planning to send additional man power this year to assist with installing the floor. Rob Schoeber discussed the Department's ability to design independent contracts for large events, allowing Parks and Recreation the opportunity to recoup direct costs. (Example: Sarah Palin's visit to Grand Junction) Tawny Espinoza asked if Grand Junction's fees are comparable to other areas' fees. Traci Wieland responded it is very difficult to compare "apples to apples" because other cities may not have comparable facilities with similar maintenance standards. Mrs. Wieland stated the majority of changes in the proposed fee structure are regarding streamlining the process, and will not result in much of a budgetary impact. Traci Wieland stated the 2008 fee structure will remain in place until the 2009 changes are approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council. Bruce Hill suggested the Board review the proposed fees and charges; however, stated it would be difficult to make changes in 2009, as the budget is already in place.

Bruce Hill asked for an update regarding online registrations. Traci Wieland reported internet registrations have increased 4% in 2008, with a total of 14% of registrations being processed via the web. Mrs. Wieland said she will bring the internet registration information to the February Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Doug Jones reported the golf courses will soon have the ability to offer online tee times. The new system will not require a deposit for a tee time; however, Mr. Jones said the golf course employees will have the ability to prohibit any abusers.

#### **Item 4: BLM Resource Management**

Lenna Watson reported Dave McIlroy has volunteered to serve as the Board's liaison for the BLM Resource Management discussions. Rob Schoeber stated BLM is currently developing a master plan for the region and will be accepting public comment through January 9, 2009. Mr. Schoeber expressed the importance of providing input and suggested the Board submit a letter stating they would like to be involved in future discussions. Mr. Schoeber said he had recently met with Shawn Cooper and identified a couple of sites in the Redlands area as potential properties of interest. Bruce Hill also expressed the importance of being involved in the process, stating the City is interested in developing cooperative relationships to enhance the values of the community as a whole. Rob Schoeber discussed the possibility of developing memorandums of understandings, in which the City would program and maintain the properties, yet the titles would remain BLM. Mr. Schoeber said these type of arrangements work very well, although occasionally can be difficult when determining which governmental organization should respond to law enforcement issues.

#### **Item 5: Melrose Park Survey Results**

Traci Wieland distributed the results of the on-line Melrose Park survey. (See attached) Mrs. Wieland said the 46 responses were very passionate regarding the rocket, and the majority does not want to see rocket discontinued being used as a play structure. Traci Wieland said the subject is going to require some difficult conversations, as "safety" has to remain the City's number one priority. Mrs. Wieland said the Melrose Park project is continuing to move forward, with the replacement of the restrooms scheduled for this spring.

**Item 6: Lilac Park**

Reford Theobald stated the original goal was to rejuvenate Lilac Park by planting a large variety of lilacs, and that several organizations, including the Desert Vista Garden Club and the Lion's Club, were involved in the planting project. Rob Schoeber reported the location of the lilacs will most likely have to be moved, in order for the dying plants to flourish. Traci Wieland stated the area was too wet, and that the Department intends to conduct soil tests prior to relocating the plants. Lenna Watson suggested the Board pursue the possibility of the original organizations vesting an interest in the park again.

**Item 7: Lincoln Park Presentation**

Rob Schoeber reported ACE Golf would be holding their last open house tonight, and stated he was not sure what direction the group intended to take after the meeting. Bruce Hill stated, to date, the group has still not made any official requests from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or City Council. Doug Jones reported he has received a lot of negative feedback from the golfers, including multiple comments from out of town golfers who also are not in support of the concept. Mr. Jones said the golf course can do several of the learning center options on their own, and that staff has already begun requesting prices. Discussion ensued regarding concern over ACE Golf's approach and the fact that several other proposals for the golf course have been rejected by the users in the past.

**Item 8: Project Updates**

Rob Schoeber reported the administration office is currently under construction. The project includes several new offices being constructed, and new paint for the entire office. The Parks shops office has also been remodeled to provide an office for the maxi com (irrigation) system. The Duck Pond Park project is almost complete and the playground is currently being installed. In addition, new playgrounds are being installed at Canyon View Park and Williams Park. Many of the older parks did not have partitions doors in the restrooms, therefore, new partitions are being installed. The restrooms are finished at Canyon View Park, and the tennis courts will be finished when the temperatures rise. Traci Wieland reported the locker rooms at Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool were recently retiled and the showerheads were raised. In addition, the VCB is giving a display case to the pool, which will provide a glass area for pro shop items. Doug Jones reported the pole barn at the golf course is now finished, protecting the equipment and freeing up some additional parking spaces for customers.

Rob Schoeber discussed the impact the economy is having on construction projects, stating the Department recently received a total of 23 bids from contractors for a \$60,000 project. Another example given was the irrigation project on Colorado Avenue, in which the City received 22 bids. Mr. Schoeber reported the Parks and Recreation Department will be taking over the cleaning responsibilities of the restrooms located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Colorado and the Botanical Gardens. The cleaning has been contracted out in the past, and will save the City approximately \$16,000 per year and allow the ability of quality control, when brought back in-house.

Lenna Watson asked for ideas on how, as a Board member, she could assist the Parks and Recreation Department. Traci Wieland responded the Board members are always welcome to volunteer with recreation programs, and suggested Lenna help out with the upcoming Midwest Conference. Rob Schoeber reported the Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting the 2009 Midwest Conference April 20 – 23, 2009. The Midwest Conference is a six state regional conference including Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Mr. Schoeber said

the Department is anticipating over 250 attendees and said he will bring registration forms to the next meeting. Lenna Watson expressed the importance of the Board members showing a presence at these types of events.

**Item 9: Other Business**

Tawny Espinoza reported the Live Well registrations are now open. Mrs. Espinoza stated the Mesa County Health Department has added seven components of wellness and will be giving out prizes to those who complete the challenge.

**Item 10: Future Meetings Agenda**

Internet Registration Update

**Item 11: Adjourn**

Lenna Watson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Reford Theobald moved to adjourn and Jack Scott seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist