

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

March 5, 2009

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 12:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Lenna Watson
Dr. William Findlay
David McInay
Jack Scott
Yvette Carnine

Board Members Absent:

Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)
Tawny Espinoza
Reford Theobald

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Rob Schoeber, Director
Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the February 12, 2009 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dave McInay seconded.

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

Item 3: Renaming of Melrose Park

Rob Schoeber reported, after additional research, the Department still believed Melrose Park was originally named after a subdivision. Mr. Schoeber said he had contacted Ray Phipps who also did not have any additional information. Rob Schoeber distributed copies of an article written by Phyllis Buckley (See attached), regarding the history of parks in Grand Junction, in which Melrose Park was referred to as "Rocketship Park". The article does not indicate the name "Melrose" was tied to anyone specific. Dr. William Findlay expressed concern that new residents to the area may be familiar with the name "Melrose Park" and suggested a combination of the name might make more sense (i.e., Melrose "Rocket" Park). Jack Scott requested the Board postpone making a decision, in order to allow for additional research.

Mike Vendegna reported on the upcoming development at Melrose Park, stating the community development plans have been signed, and the project will be ready to bid the first of April. The project will be broken into three phases, beginning in May, and should be completed by mid-September. Mr. Vendegna stated the existing facility will remain in use throughout the construction process, and said the playground phase will have the biggest impact on the users.

Item 4: Long Family Memorial Park Update

Rob Schoeber provided an update on the discussions between the City and Mesa County regarding the City's Parks and Recreation Department taking over the scheduling aspects of Long Family Memorial Park. The contract, which includes \$38,000 in costs the first year (designated for startup items such as staff, office furniture, materials, etc.) and \$28,000 subsequent years, will be revisited by City Council in two weeks. Mr. Schoeber stated the agreement includes a guaranteed flat rate for the City, regardless of the actual income.

Item 5: Update from Parks Improvement Advisory Board

Rob Schoeber reported on the stadium improvement plan presented by Bruce Hill at the March 3, 2009 Parks Improvement Advisory Board (PIAB) meeting. Mr. Schoeber said PIAB had requested Bruce Hill share the information, even though it may or may not be a good time in the community to pursue the funding. The estimated \$16-18 million stadium improvement plan consists of the complete renovation of the concrete stands, press box, and restrooms, and will also include a large hospitality area, and the installation of an elevator (making the facility ADA accessible). Rob Schoeber said the JUCO board has indicated they are willing to contribute approximately \$3-4 million toward the project; however, they would need commitments from partnering organizations in order to move forward. Mr. Schoeber stated PIAB members left the meeting with the intentions of taking the information back to their individual organizations in hopes of determining feasibility. Rob Schoeber said the PIAB members discussed the difficult economy; however, also discussed that it might be a good time to move forward while able to take advantage of the low construction costs. Jack Scott expressed concern regarding such a large amount of money being put towards an existing facility versus the development of new parks. Lenna Watson discussed the importance of renovating the stadium, stating the increasingly high usage and the revenue the stadium generates should be weighed when considering whether or not to fund the project. Dr. William Findlay discussed current issues with the track, including the need for stands located near the finish line. Mr. Schoeber stated, should the project come to fruition, the timing will be critical, as it will require at least 11 months to complete.

Item 6: Project Updates

Mike Vendegna reported, regardless of a few setbacks (specifications on lighting, hand dryers, etc.), the new restrooms at Canyon View Park will open tomorrow. The Department is still waiting for the weather to warm up in order to complete the tennis courts. The netting for the Canyon View Park playground is currently being installed. The pour-in-place surfaces for the playgrounds at Canyon View and Duck Pond Parks are also being completed this week.

Rob Schoeber reported on a recent request by a local RC car racing group for the use of an area at Matchett Park. Mr. Schoeber said the group is a very active club with a well established network who travels around the country to race. The group has requested the use of park property for their race track, with access to water and power, suggesting Matchett Park. City staff member Eddie Mort suggested the group use the Northeast corner of Canyon View Park rather than Matchett Park, as the location would provide water, power, and better parking. Dr. William Findlay questioned if there would be enough parking during large event weekends. Rob Schoeber said the Department is reviewing additional parking needs at Canyon View Park and is currently considering paving the interior area between the tennis courts and baseball area.

Rob Schoeber reported on the very unfortunate situation that recently occurred at the Canyon View dog park, resulting in the death of a chihuahua. Mr. Schoeber said the staff was very much affected by the incident and has expressed great sympathy for the dog's owner and her friends. The Department is currently considering installing a memorial rock boulder at the park in the dog's honor. Rob Schoeber said there have been numerous comments on the internet regarding the incident, and that staff is following up a recent comment indicating there have been "staged dog fights" taking place at the park.

Item 7: Other Business

Rob Schoeber reminded the Board members of the upcoming registration deadline for the Midwest Regional Conference.

Dave McIlnay reported he had attended a recent BLM meeting regarding the off-road vehicle plan. Dave McIlnay stated BLM encourages local cities to get involved in the planning process, and said one of BLM's goals is to protect the area for mountain biking, hiking, etc. Mr. McIlnay said BLM has the authority to allow city and/or county government to obtain property at a significantly reduced rate. Dave McIlnay has asked BLM Field Office Planner Matt Anderson to present at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Item 8: Future Meetings Agenda

BLM presentation - Matt Anderson

Item 9: Adjourn

Lenna Watson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave McIlnay moved to adjourn and Dr Findlay seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist