

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

May 7, 2009

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Lenna Watson
 Reford Theobold
 David McIlnay
 Tawny Espinoza
 Jack Scott
 Yvette Carnine

Board Members Absent: Dr. William Findlay
 Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)

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

Guests:

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the April 2, 2009 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Tawny Espinoza seconded.

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

Item 3: Golf Update

Doug Jones discussed the implementation of two master plans (Lincoln Park Golf Course and Tiara Rado Golf Course), in which the goal for both is to end up with four sets of tees. The changes at Lincoln Park will include improving the practice facilities and expanding the driving range area. In addition, City staff is currently working on a solution to reduce the amount of stray golf balls coming from holes 4 and 5 that are landing in the VA Hospital's employee parking lot. The VA Hospital no longer has an agreement with Teller Arms allowing their employees to park in the shopping center's parking lot. Mr. Jones stated possible solutions include moving the 4th tee against the fence and/or incorporating a settling pond/lake that will force golfers to change their aim.

Doug Jones showed the plans for the upcoming changes at Tiara Rado Golf Course. The goal at Tiara Rado is to establish 7-10 days of water storage, in order to prevent future incidents similar to summer 2008 when the canal was shut down leaving the golf course without irrigation water. The plan also includes additional yardage to allow four sets of tees, a new par 3 green, the planting of fruit trees at all par 3's, and several new ponds (pending available funding). Mr. Jones also discussed the need for

replacing the irrigation pump station, stating the existing station is very dangerous and the parts have become difficult to acquire as they are now obsolete. The total estimated cost for the irrigation system is \$3.5 million.

Doug Jones reported rounds are up at both courses compared to this time last year, and stated the recently implemented “Golf without Intimidation” program has proven to be very successful. Mr. Jones said, regardless of the recent bad weather, none of the scheduled tournaments have been canceled. Rob Schoeber briefly reported on the AT&T agreement with the City regarding the replacement cell phone tower, just East of the Tiara Rado club house (along the cart path), which will result in approximately \$9,000 in revenue for the golf course.

Rob Schoeber provided a brief update on ACE Golf, stating he was recently informed ACE Golf is now pursuing a new partnership, in hopes of generating additional fund raising opportunities. Discussion ensued regarding the approach ACE Golf has taken to the project, as well as the potential for them to partner with the City should they redesign the plan to benefit the “entire” community without losing any of the existing nine holes.

Item 4: Project Updates

Rob Schoeber reported staff is in the process of completing numerous projects in preparation for the JUCO season. Projects include a fresh coat of paint on the archways, the installation of a new ticket booth in the outfield, and the repainting of the lines in the Lincoln Park parking lots.

The new tennis court surfaces at Canyon View Park are being poured; the courts will be open for play next week. The landscaping around the Lincoln Park-Moyer Pool waterslide, including curbing, rockwork, and new sod will be finished prior to the pool’s opening. Mr. Schoeber reported on the recent agreement with Palisade in which the City’s aquatic staff will be assuming the management responsibilities of the Palisade pool. City staff is responsible for all hiring and training, and intends to implement the same facility and training standards as what is currently in place at the City’s public swimming pools.

Spring Valley Park II now has a new playground, as well as a new pump house lid that, unfortunately, has caused some frustration with the neighbors. Staff has received reports the neighborhood kids are jumping off the pump house onto the lid generating a considerable amount of noise. Rob Schoeber stated a temporary fence has been installed around the new pump house to prevent the kids from climbing on top of the building.

Improvements at Rocket Park are moving forward on schedule, with the project going out to bid this month. Bids are also going out shortly for the new cemetery shop, in which staff is expecting to see low estimates due to the current economy.

Rob Schoeber reported City staff is currently in the process of creating an “in-house” master plan and an implementation timeline for Burkey Park that will be presented to City Council later this year. Mr. Schoeber stated his hope is to implement the master plan in stages, beginning with irrigation and turf. Once the master plan is completed it will be presented to City Council for prioritization. Lenna Watson stated her homeowner’s association plans to meet and also intends to approach City Council, in the near future, requesting the development of Horizon Park. Discussion ensued regarding the need for City Council to prioritize the park properties as the population is growing much faster than the development

of parks. Tawny Espinoza briefly discussed a new Mesa County Health Department program in which they are working with local businesses on educating them on the impact development is having on the health environment. The goal is to start getting businesses to think about the impact “prior” to developing.

Reford Theobold reported on his attendance at the CPRA Midwest Conference in which Lena Elliott received an individual citation award. Mr. Schoeber said Lena Elliott was very surprised and received a standing ovation for her 50+ years of dedication to the tennis community. Mr. Theobold also discussed Deadwood, South Dakota who is in the process of developing a new “dinosaur” themed park. The playground is designed as a dinosaur head with tusks as the slides. The park is being developed almost in its entirety using volunteer labor. Mr. Theobold discussed what a tremendous, yet successful, undertaking the project was, suggesting the City of Grand Junction consider doing a similar project. Lenna Watson suggested hosting a “rocket design contest” for the playground at Melrose Park. Reford Theobold suggested a dinosaur design at a future park, due to all of the local dinosaur connections in the Grand Valley. Lenna Watson asked Mr. Theobold to work with Traci Wieland in hopes of pursuing the concept for both Melrose Park and a future dinosaur park.

Item 5: Other Business

Tawny Espinoza asked if there was a map and/or location listing for the memorial trees and benches in located throughout the City. Rob Schoeber reported there is not a current map; however agreed some type of directory would be a great idea.

Item 6: Future Meetings Agenda

Item 7: Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist