

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes January 7, 2010

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Chair Lenna Watson at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Bruce Hill (Ex-Officio)
Tawny Espinoza

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Rob Schoeber, Director
Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent
Allison Cripe, Leisure Services Representative

Guests:

Teresa Coons Ph.D., Western Co. Math and Science Center
Reece Murrow, CU Fellow

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Jack Scott moved to approve the December 3, 2009 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dr. William Findlay seconded.

Approved by acclamation

Motion adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: by acclamation

Item 3: Interactive Exhibit – Western Colorado Math and Science Center

Traci Wieland gave background information to the Board about the project at Rocket Park. Initially staff met with all students at the Western Colorado Math and Science Center (WCMSC) several months ago. This concept has been generated by students working with the WCMSC. If the Board is in favor of this concept staff will work on more specifics such as budget. Staff is very excited about the fact that this is already a community collaboration.

Reece Murrow talked to the group about the CU Fellows Program which is partnering with the WCMSC to fund Mesa State students to go into classrooms to inspire students to consider engineering as a future career. The Fellows group came up with an idea for an educational and interactive setup at Rocket Park that would center around the planets. Planets are a large part of astronomy right now and they feel it is important to bring that knowledge to the community. This plan is designed to create a three dimensional display with planets all scaled to the proper size that people can touch and move around in and see some of the details of every planet. Ms. Murrow presented details on each of the planets; Mercury, Venus,

Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Pluto is not included in the proposal as a planet because in July of 2005 the definition of a planet changed by the International Astronomical Union. To be scientifically correct it has been left out of the proposal, but an explanation could be posted as to why it is not shown.

The project could also involve local artists to develop the realistic renditions of the planets. The display would include interesting facts both scientific and literary about the planets.

The board members talked about options for materials for construction, ideally planets would be metal but could work with concrete. Traci Wieland told the group that she had spoken with Allison Sarmo of the Art and Culture Commission and she had some really good feedback as far as using local artists or ways to do some signage and also suggested powder coating the planets. The Board members discussed some ways to modify the concept that could reduce the costs. There was also discussion about how to give people an idea of how far apart the planets are relative to the sun. Lenna Watson asked staff to continue to involve the neighbors as they move forward with the concept. There is consensus from the board to move forward with the conceptual idea. Traci told the board they would continue to bring updates as they move forward with the project.

Item 4: Preparations for February 4, 2010 Las Colonias Discussion

Rob Schoeber talked with the Board about the Las Colonias area. He has been approached by members of the Riverfront Commission about developing Las Colonias Park. This will be the major agenda item at the February meeting. The next meeting will be at the Botanical Gardens so that this group of people can talk to the Board about moving forward with development. At this point funding will drive all projects.

Additionally, the City is in the process of completing a Comprehensive Plan. Once the Comprehensive Plan is adopted the Board will be able to put priorities on all the undeveloped parks. The target date for City Council approval of the Comprehensive Plan is March of 2010.

Dr. Findlay asked if the tamarisk removal would affect development of Las Colonias Park. The existing Master Plan of Las Colonias addresses the tamarisk within the boundaries of the park. The Master Plan that is in place for Las Colonias does call for multiple phases and the Riverfront Commission does understand that the park would be developed in phases.

Item 5: Project Updates:

Staff is currently developing a master plan for Burkey Park and will be able to bring a design forward in February or March. Although there is no funding for this project, staff would like to have the master plan developed so that when funding becomes available development will move quicker.

Mike Vendegna updated the Board on projects. Most projects are on hold because of weather. The project that is underway is moving the maintenance operations to the Riverside Parkway building. The crews are moving forward with some indoor renovation and will be moving out of Lincoln Park sooner than expected.

Jack Scott asked how having crews housed at Matchett Park is working out. Mike told the Board that three crews are using the original Matchett house as a satellite shop and it is working very well.

Traci Wieland talked with the board about some flooding at the eastern most house at Matchett. The house was flooded and the damage was significant. The house most likely will not be available for rental again without significant funds.

Item 6: Other Business

Yvette will speak to Ed Baker who is a tamarisk expert about attending the March meeting to discuss tamarisk removal with the Board.

Item 7: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cripe
Leisure Services Representative