

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes September 2, 2010

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Tawny Espinoza at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Schoeber, Director
 Tressa Fisher, Administration Specialist
 Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent
 Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent

Grand Valley Zoological Quest
Guests: Janet Gardner
 Harlin Wall
 Peter Woodbury

Item 2: Approve Minutes

David McInay moved to approve the August 5, 2010 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dr. William Findlay seconded. Bruce Hill requested the minutes reflect his position as “Ex-Officio”. The minutes were approved unanimously, with the above correction.

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

Item 3: Special Presentation – Grand Valley Zoological Quest

Janet Gardner discussed the Grand Valley Zoological Quest’s goal to create an educational zoological center on the Western Slope. (See attached handout) The plans include building the center in phases, with the first phase consisting of a parrot and reptile educational center, and a half enclosed building built on an acre to an acre and a half. Mrs. Gardner stated the phase would also include animals from the ecosystem of a tropical forest, and said their main focus will be on “education”. The group expressed Matchett Park was the desired location for the zoo, stating the property has many of the qualities they are looking for, such as space, interesting land features, valleys, hills, and a leach creek. All of these features encourage natural behaviors for the animals and reduce the stress of being caged. They also prefer Matchett Park’s location, due to its close proximity to the Interstate.

The group also discussed their plans for generating income, not only to help sustain, but to grow the zoo. The plans include birthday party rentals, convention room rentals for businesses and private parties,

traveling science exhibits, admission fees, producing e-books, selling naturally discarded feathers and reptile skins, renting out lab space, summer science classes, snack bar, and a retail shop. They also intend to pursue grant opportunities for additional funding.

The Grand Valley Zoological quest plans to expand the zoo in multiple phases, possibly including an insectory and an exhibit of “animals from Colorado”. The group is requesting to share in the planning and development of the parks master plan, and is requesting to lease Matchett Park from the City for 100 years for \$1.00. The group’s proposal is for a “renewable lease” that would include the Parks and Recreation Department being responsible for all ground maintenance and landscaping. Lenna Watson expressed concern regarding the financial impact the maintenance/landscaping piece could have on the Parks and Recreation department, referring to the current budget restraints the City is facing.

Rob Schoeber stated, should the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board decide to recommend the lease, the next step would be for the zoo concept to be incorporated into the Parks Master Plan, which will then be presented to City Council for approval.

Item 4: City Council Update

Bruce Hill provided a brief City Council update, stating the Council recently directed staff to prepare a resolution allowing the City to opt out of the retail distribution of medical marijuana. Mr. Hill also discussed the stadium improvement and public safety projects, stating both could potentially be funded through Certificates of Participation.

Item 5: Project Updates

Mike Vendegna reported the Hawthorne restroom project will open for bids September 23, 2010. The project is being funded by a CBDG grant.

Rob Schoeber discussed the new “Yard of the Month” program. Nomination forms are published in the Daily Sentinel.

Item 6: Future Meeting Agenda

Parks Master Plan

Item 7: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist

Grand Valley Zoological Quest

Grand Valley Zoological Quest is a newly incorporated nonprofit with the mission to develop a zoological educational center in Grand Junction, Colorado. Residents, in Western Colorado, are forced to travel east over the Rocky Mountains or west into Utah to access the nearest zoo. **The Grand Valley is due for a zoo!**

Grand Valley Zoological Quest proposes to create an expanding zoological and educational center which includes both natural and man made features to form enriched environments for all species exhibited. Phase I of the zoo will entail an enclosed jungle an acre to acre and half in dimension. The roof, composed mostly of glass, will allow the important ultra-violet rays to reach inside the habitats below. It is our mission to include multiple green energies in the development of this facility. This first phase will focus primarily on psittacines (parrots) and reptiles; however, additional compatible species will be included. Many of the species exhibited will be obtained from private collections and animal rescues in Colorado and neighboring states. There is very little scientific research with these alternative pet species; therefore, this undeveloped niche is a perfect catalyst to launch the zoo in Grand Junction. Scientific research will aid in global understanding and conservation for many species.

Educational programs in the biological fields of science will be developed for kindergarten through advanced study including adult continuing education and responsible pet ownership. We have spoken with professors, certified teachers, and professionals who have expressed a commitment to assist with our educational projects. Programs will be available throughout the year with an emphasis on summer months for children and family activities. The zoo in Grand Junction will work closely with Western Slope Colleges and local high schools to generate scientific research of exhibited species. Students access to exotic animals, here in the Grand Valley, will provide hands on experience in the biological fields, thereby aiding in future careers. Research will be published. Traveling educational science exhibits will rotate periodically. Interactive educational displays and volunteers will be available for guests enjoying the zoo.

Grand Valley Zoological Quest's objective is to inspire community participation by utilizing the services of volunteers from all walks of life: retired seniors, the unemployed, college and high school students, developmentally disabled, and at-risk youth. Hours accrued by volunteers may be converted into zoo points, which can then be redeemed towards classes offered at the zoo in Grand Junction. As an asset to the community, Grand Valley Zoological Quest's vision is to inspire, educate, enhance, and assist in improving the quality of life for those who participate at the zoo.

Funds to develop the zoo in Grand Junction will be procured through local, private, and national resources. Local civic organizations such as: Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, and Junior Service League will be approached for financial donations. Major companies who work within the community will be solicited for matching funds. Community and private support will be gained through educational demonstrations at schools and community events. Local, state, and national grants will be acquired for the remainder of the funding. It is our goal to secure land by working with Grand Junction's City Parks & Recreational Department and the undeveloped land at Matchett Park. We anticipate the first phase of this zoological and educational facility to be built within five years.

Matchett Park is the ideal location for the zoo with its five year goal of connecting to I 70. With 24,000 automobiles passing daily on I70, the connection to Patterson Road, and the newly built thorough fare to Highway 50, easy access to the facility is guaranteed for both local and traveling visitors. The naturally occurring land features of Matchett Park beautifully supports the contours of a zoo. The first phase including landscaping and parking will envelop less than three acres. With sustainable income, community support, and research grants, the Grand Junction zoo will continue to expand accumulating more animal exhibits over time. This extension will require assistance from Grand Junction's City Parks & Recreation Department in regards to landscaping and ground maintenance. Possible future exhibits include: Animals of Western Colorado, Animals from around the world, insect house, raptor pavilion, and aquarium.

Funds to expand and sustain the zoo will derive from: admission fees, classes, research grants, kids play area, food service, private parties, kids birthday parties, traveling museums, retail shop, electronic books, behind the scene tours, fundraisers, and the sale of naturally discarded parrot feathers. It is our desire that this facility be welcoming to not only the 140,000 residence of Mesa County but also to surrounding communities and distant travelers. Grand Valley Zoological Quest is devoted to education, research, and conservation of exhibited species as well as the entertainment and enrichment to those who visit.

Janet Gardner
Executive Director



Phase I Parrot and Reptile Educational Center

The first phase, parrot and reptile educational center, will be an acre to acre and half enclosed building containing a complete immersion jungle. Animal exhibits will appear in as natural settings as possible coordinating back to their species original geographic location. Special care will be given to enrich habitats with both natural and man made features to stimulate instinctual behaviors.

The building roof comprised mostly of glass, will filter sunlight into the habitats below. Multiple green energy sources and building materials will be evaluated. Classrooms and research labs will be included in the master plan.

Future animal exhibits will be explored as funds permit. Such displays might include: animals of Western Colorado, insect house, aquarium, and raptor pavilion.

Educational Opportunities

- Classes available in zoology, herpetology, botany, biology, animal behavior and other coordinating fields of science.
- Different course levels for elementary through college.
 - Internships and research projects available to college & high school students.
 - Class for the developmentally disabled and at risk youth.
 - On site classrooms and labs.
 - Summer science courses.
 - Adult continuing education.
 - Community lectures and walks through facility.
 - Classes for basic pet care and responsible pet ownership.

Self Guided

- Interactive educational information will be available while touring the facility.
- Touch screen computers.
 - Multiple interactive stations.
 - Special feeding and animal interaction times.
 - Rotating traveling science exhibits of various science topics.

Future Rental Opportunities

- Children's Play Zone**
- Multiple rooms available in children's area for birthday party rental.
 - Food and/or animal education provided for additional cost.
- Convention Room**
- Setting for traveling exhibits.
 - Community lectures
 - Rental available for weddings, parties, and business meetings.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers are welcome from all walks of life.
 - Seniors who have knowledge or would like to know more about fields of zoology.
 - Certified teachers.
 - High school students who need to complete community service hours for graduation.
 - At Risk youth.
 - Any and all applications for volunteers will be taken into consideration.
- All volunteers will earn zoo points for their volunteer hours at the facility. Those zoo points may be exchanged for tuition cost into any of the zoo's available classes.

Donations

Mail to: GVZQ
2612 H 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Or drop off at any Alpine Bank
Donation for:

Grand Valley Zoological Quest

\$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 Other



Donated by: _____
Thank you for your support!
Email: gvzooquest@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Janet Gardner, Executive Director/President- received B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Biology. A native of Grand Junction, Janet worked on her Master's Thesis in Jakarta, Indonesia with the Komodo Dragons. She returned to Grand Junction as a result of the first Gulf War. Janet has developed and volunteered for extra curricular school programs in School District 51 since 2000. Janet continues her education in post-nursing (nursing) management by obtaining certificates in: **Burdie Basses, The Fundamentals of Parrot Behavior, Companion Parrot Behavior Workshop, AFA Certificate Avian/Parrot Level I, and Advance Avian Program Management.** She is a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Harlin Wall, Vice President-began giving educational herpetology presentations to students of the Grand Valley when he was 18 yrs old. Harlin has successfully bred a variety of reptiles in captivity every year since 1992. Owner of Wall To Wall Reptiles, he concentrates on the breeding of rare or uncommon species for more serious collectors, zoos, and herpetologists. Harlin is involved with local law enforcement agencies, providing reptile identification, rescue, removal, adoption and shipping services to residents of Colorado on a free-of-charge/education basis. He attended Mesa State College, studying subjects such as Zoology, Herpetology, Snake Ecology and Behavior and Biochemistry of Venom and Toxicology under Dr. Steven Werman. Harlin currently works with members of the scientific community on research projects by donating type specimens, venom, blood, tissue and shedding samples for DNA studies.

Diana Fox, Treasurer- holds Bachelor Degrees in both Nursing and Business along with a MBA. She is a native of Grand Junction and the former Director of Clinical Services for Mesa County Health Department. Diana has been a parrot re-homer for over ten years. Diana is a civic volunteer with the local soup kitchen and Community Car Care.

Cerise Moran, Secretary- holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematical Statistics from Mesa State College and is currently a Charter School Institute (CSI) certified teacher at Caprock Academy. She has experience with data analysis and grant writing.

Dr. Gary S. Rechten is the owner/veterinarian of Col-umbine Animal Hospital in Grand Junction, Co. Over the past 30 years, he has worked with several zoological parks and private collections, including: Denver Zoo, Tulsa Zoo, and Oklahoma zoo, with a variety of animals

Dr. Rechten cont.: from birds to marine mammals. He also has volunteered with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (Trapping and Relocation), and the Rapture Rehabilitation Program at Colorado State Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Currently, he is a consultant for wildlife in other veterinary hospitals in Denver.

Sharon Walker is an eastern slope transplant who transferred with her job to Grand Junction in 1977 and stayed. She graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. Sharon spent 33 years working as a Parole Officer and Parole Board Member before retiring in 2005. She sits on the Mesa County Community Corrections Board and on the Roots fund raising committee of the Petanual Gardens.

Board Advisors

Paul Bingham, D.V.M., is owner/veterinarian of Arrowhead Veterinary Services. He is involved with local DOW rehabilitation and is currently seeking their special certification. Dr. Bingham's expertise includes small and large animals, wild life, and exotics. He is presently on multiple animal boards and is fluent with the process of local, state, and federal animal permits.

Kathryn Whitlason has a Ph.D. in cell biology from the University of Colorado Health Science Center (UCHSC). She and her family have lived in GJ since 1984 and own a radiation detector manufacturing business, Alpha Spectra Inc. In her spare time, Kathryn teaches science to Holy Family first and second graders. Kathryn also volunteers for the Grand Junction High School Soccer Club Events.

Diane Russell is a retired school teacher who taught 7th grade for 38 years. She is highly qualified in the areas of Math and English. Diane also teaches science for a few years. She will assist in fundraising.

Peter Woodbury has been an engineering technician for the past twenty five years. During that time he has primarily worked in the Development Department of Colorado State Parks and has been involved in many of the west slope State park construction and renovation projects. He has also worked for Zeldan Engineering and served on the Mesa County School District 01 Lease Hangar Planning Committee. He has an extensive background in engineering, surveying, construction and land development.

Michelle Gossage holds a Bachelor's degree in Technical Editing. She presently edits college science and nursing text books and has done so for the past 11 years. Michelle is a volunteer for School District 51; creating and running extra- curricular programs since 2000.

John Feliciano- A retired business owner who also worked in law enforcement, who is presently an assistant to a local real estate broker and manages many properties. He is a member of the Highlands Rotary Club. John is the Chair of the annual Gateway Arts Fest and belongs to a group of sport cars enthusiasts. He is active in maintenance of species care and the planning of monthly studies to various locations and auto shows. John is known to his friends as "Information General".

The Grand Valley is
Due for
An Educational
Zoo



Mission Statement

Grand Valley Zoological Quest is a center devoted to education, research, conservation, reproduction, and the enrichment of fauna and flora exhibited in comparable natural habitats as well as the education, enrichment, and recreation of those who visit.