

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **August 4, 2011**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Lenna Watson at 12:03 p.m.**

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present:                   Tawny Espinoza  
  Lenna Watson  
  Dr. William Findlay  
  David McInay  
  Scott Coleman  
  Dr. Scott McBrayer  
  Jim Doody (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:                   Bart Dickson

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

### **Item 2: Approve Minutes**

David McInay moved to approve the July 7, 2011 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Tawny Espinoza seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

### **Item 3: Hawthorne Park**

In 2010 Hawthorne Park received new restrooms and a shelter, as the park had been designated as the number one priority by City Council. At that time, the park had many regular users; however, is now being visited less and less often due to the increasing number of transients in the area. During the last several weeks the City and the Parks and Recreation Department have received a large amount of comments and/or complaints from the people who live near the park. The Parks Department has been working very closely with the Police Department to determine what options are available to address the growing issue. Rob Schoeber reported there is also an organized group of citizens who have begun scheduling “take back the parks” events, in hopes of finding a resolution. Jim Doody stated the issue was discussed at last night’s City Council meeting, in which citizens were provided an opportunity to comment on the situation. Representatives from all sides were at the meeting, including upset parents and homeless advocates. Mr. Doody stated although the groups diametrically opposed each other, they all made good points and said City Council wants to find a way to resolve the issue, while making sure not to infringe upon anyone’s first amendment rights.

Rob Schoeber reported the Parks Department recently met with the HOT team and was really impressed with Chief Camper’s response to the issue. To date, several short term steps have been taken to address

the issue, including more frequent patrolling, eliminating electricity in the shelters, and posting no smoking signs. In addition, a new amendment to the 3.2 alcohol rule has been created, to allow Rob Schoeber to designate specific parks as “alcohol free” areas. This designation is solely at the Director’s discretion and will be implemented whenever necessary. A public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at 6:00 p.m., in which the residents in the immediate neighborhood, City Council, and law enforcement have been all been invited. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for everyone to share their thoughts and concerns. Lenna Watson encouraged the board members to attend the upcoming public meeting.

Mike Vendegna discussed the increased presence of parks staff, stating there is always a minimum of two staff members stopping by each of the parks on a daily schedule. Jim Doody reported the City intends to involve others in the community to discuss potential solutions. Long term goals may include modifying ordinances, (public intoxication rule, sit and lie ordinance, etc.), although a way to enforce the ordinances must also be identified and implemented. In addition, options such as working with social services programs may also be explored. (Example: Should someone receive a violation in a City park, they could potentially lose privileges at the day center) The Board members expressed concern that if the solutions are not implemented “City wide”, the issues could begin occurring in other areas as well. The members agreed this is a very controversial issue that, unfortunately, may only continue to get worse with the poor economy.

#### **Item 4: Forestry Tree Guide**

Mike Vendegna provided a brief overview on how the Forestry Tree Guide was developed (see attached), stating the process consisted of several workshops with the purpose of creating an educational program for the public. The Forestry Tree Guide was designed to coincide with the Planning Department’s rules and regulations for development, and is a tool for the public on selecting and caring for the “proper” tree for their area. City staff is responsible for maintaining all trees within 5-10 feet of the right of way; the home owners are only responsible for watering the trees. Mr. Vendegna stated there are several ways the Forestry Department educates the public, including providing a walk through tree guide at Lincoln Park upon request, and the tree identification information located in the Facility Guide. In addition, the Forestry Department regularly provides the community with advice on their trees, regardless if the trees are located within City limits. The Board discussed the importance of preserving our urban forest, along with the possibility of incorporating an arboretum as the theme for a future park.

#### **Item 5: Stadium Update**

Rob Schoeber discussed the schematics for Suplizio Stadium and said the construction is already a month ahead of schedule. The project is under budget and is currently on track to be completed in time for the spring graduation ceremonies. The new complex will include multiple levels, along with a hospitality level that will be available for meetings, events, etc. The design includes a large area of individual seats, which will generate revenues from reserved seating. Mr. Schoeber said all of the lighting will be relocated to where it is no longer in the line of sight of the spectators and will be brought up to broadcast standards.

#### **Item 6: Project Updates**

Traci Wieland reported the Lincoln Park-Moyer Pool waterslide was closed a couple of weeks ago due to a safety risk. The slide was installed in 2008 and has had leaking problems ever since. During a

recent inspection, the subcontractor noticed the concrete was failing, which could cause significant injury. Staff is currently working with the contractor regarding the warranty, in hopes of getting the situation resolved as quickly as possible. The slide will be closed until further notice. Mrs. Wieland also discussed the significant loss of revenues this year, due to both the water slide closure and the unusual weather patterns.

Mike Vendegna reported on the successful GOCO grant, which has allowed them to utilize the Colorado Conservative Youth Core group to work on improvement projects at Burkey, Matchett, and Westlake Parks. Mr. Vendegna stated the group has done a fantastic job and has gone far beyond staff's expectations.

**Item 7: For the Good of the Community**

Scott Coleman reported he had received a thank you letter from the citizen who requested information regarding the Amore Arcieri memorial. The information was exactly what she was looking for.

Dr. William Findlay expressed the need to recognize the parks crews who were currently working in Hawthorne Park during today's meeting. The crews were patiently shoveling wood chips "around" the group of kids who were jumping on the fresh pile while the staff was trying to work.

**Item 8: Future Agenda Items**

**Item 9: Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist

Matchett Park Neighborhood Meeting  
May 9, 2011  
Public Input Results

On May 9, 2011 the Parks and Recreation Department hosted a meeting for the neighbors of Matchett Park at the Matchett Park maintenance facility from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. 137 invitations were sent to the surrounding neighborhoods and there were 61 attendees. The purpose of the meeting was to address questions and concerns of the neighborhood that had been brought to the Parks and Recreation Departments attention as well as seek public input regarding the Park.

The meeting began with introductions, brief overview / purpose of the meeting by Parks and Recreation Director Rob Schoeber. At that time Parks staff stated the concerns of the neighborhood as well as recommended immediate improvements / action items to be conducted by the Parks Department staff.

Immediate Improvements / Action Items

- Identify all park entrance points
- Place park identification, and rule and regulation signs at entrances
- Relocate disc golf basket and tees as necessary
- Place more trash cans and add recycle containers
- The house at 2856 Patterson Road will be removed in May/ June 2011
- Add additional signs as needed
  - Dog off leash signs
  - Rules and regulation signs
  - Disc golf rule signs
  - No trespassing / climbing over fences signs (wording yet to be determined)

Comments and concerns expressed by the meeting attendees during the open discussion:

- Install more pet pick up stations, at least one at each entrance
- Lots of dogs off leash, can we do something about that
- Wildlife, geese, harassment, what can be done to stop this
- Install park rules and regulation signs
- Is it possible to install porta-potties
- We need rules signs
- Post the area for no motorized vehicles
- People are driving to the North end of the park and having parties
- Please re-grade the road ways so they are easier to walk on
- Can the farmer do a better job watering so the road doesn't get flooded
- Install fence or something at all the entrances to keep cars and ATV's
- Can we stop the paint balls, B.B. and pellet guns
- Can we move the disc golf course to the far end of the park and come in off of 29 road
- Please keep the cars out of the area behind the houses at the far east end of the park, close it off
- Place post and cable at park entrance points as needed to eliminate motorized vehicles

# Matchett Park

28 1/4 Road and F Road

