

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes September 1, 2011

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Tawny Espinoza
 Lenna Watson
 David McIlnay
 Scott Coleman
 Bart Dickson
 Dr. Scott McBrayer
 Jim Doody (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: Dr. William Findlay

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

Guests: Dr. Greg Haitz

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Dave McIlnay moved to approve the August 4, 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: Outstanding Parks Partner Award

Lorie Gregor introduced Dr. Greg Haitz, stating Rimrock Chiropractic is being presented with the Outstanding Parks Partner award, due to their excellent partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department. Dr. Haitz has sponsored numerous events over the years, including the Highline Hustle and Poker Walk, as well as recently celebrated their 10th anniversary of sponsoring to the Senior Games. Rimrock Chiropractic has continually provided free massages, stretching clinics, and a health fair during these types of events, allowing the Department the ability to expand and offer these exceptional services. Dr. Greg Haitz expressed his appreciation for the award and discussed his desire to continue reaching out to the community through partnerships with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Item 4: Hawthorne Park Update

Rob Schoeber reported on the recent Hawthorne Park neighborhood meeting, stating it was a very good way to make a connection with the surrounding neighbors and to start the networking that will be necessary to address this very difficult issue. The goal is take on the issue one piece at a time, in order to begin seeing a positive impact. Rob Schoeber stated there were numerous comments at the meeting

regarding a noticeable improvement in the area, especially with regards to the HOT team's involvement. Jim Doody expressed the neighborhood meeting was a success, and commended Chief Camper and Rob Schoeber for the way they handled the meeting, stating they presented the challenges and provided the opportunity for the group to empower themselves. The residents discussed numerous options, including the possibility of forming a neighborhood watch program. Rob Schoeber reported there will be a follow-up meeting scheduled to discuss the homeless population on a larger scale, versus just related to Hawthorne Park.

Mr. Schoeber stated the City committed to hosting a Hawthorne Park neighborhood party on Thursday, September 22, 2011, in which all of the surrounding residents and the Board members will be invited. Staff has put together a mini committee who will coordinate food and entertainment for the event. The goal is to provide a "feel good" opportunity for the community.

Discussion ensued regarding whether or not there is currently a census or tracking method for the homeless. It was stated the HOT team is currently working on identifying who they are as well as where they are. Jim Doody said the City intends to involve the County in hopes of having a community dialogue about the issue, stating there are currently a lot of suggestions and brainstorming going on. Numerous ideas were briefly discussed, including the possibility of working with the local 501c3 organizations in developing a disciplinary program that would revoke some of the amenities if a homeless person is caught violating park rules and/or regulations.

Item 5: Project Update

Rob Schoeber reported on the stadium project, stating the contractors are already completing work they did not anticipate to get to until October. The project is on track with a target completion date of spring graduations. The first football game of the season is tonight, at which they will be testing a new "single speaker" sound system. If selected, the speaker will be placed on the south end of the end zone and would replace "all" of the current speakers. Staff will be walking throughout the surrounding neighborhoods in order to determine if the speaker's sound levels are appropriate.

Rob Schoeber also stated there have been many discussions recently regarding the riverfront trails that were destroyed during the flood. Mike Vendegna and the Parks crews have worked diligently to come up with a "temporary fix", which includes safety fences and an interim soft path of recycled asphalt; the temporary path is scheduled to open tomorrow. Unfortunately, the permanent repairs will be much more difficult and will most likely require partnerships within the community to complete. Numerous ideas are being explored at this time. Staff intends to pursue a partnership with the Army Core engineers, in hopes of building a conversion jetty to divert the water away from the trail. Once completed, the plans are to begin moving forward with rebuilding the critical sections.

Mike Vendegna reported Parks crews are currently in "maintenance mode", but are preparing and planning for multiple projects in 2012.

Traci Wieland reported on the recent breast feeding incident that occurred at Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool. Unfortunately, the Seasonal Manager on duty was not aware of the law, which resulted in a very upset mother and an abundance of media attention. Mrs. Wieland stated her and Larry Manchester had a very good conversation with the mother and thanked her for bringing this issue to staff's attention. The Parks and Recreation Department intends to begin implementing training sessions on this issue with all staff members, providing them with the information to properly address the situation in the future.

Traci Wieland also invited the Board members to register for the CPRA conference being hosted in Grand Junction beginning September 27, 2011 at Two Rivers Convention Center.

Rob Schoeber reported the rounds at Lincoln Park Golf Course remain down, therefore, staff has begun running some specials specifically for Saturdays and Sundays. The rounds at Tiara Rado are up, so hopefully the bargains will help offset the decreased revenues at Lincoln Park. The difficulty remains that the Lincoln Park Golf Course has a completely different clientele than Tiara Rado, so staff is attempting to bring in additional golfers to the City's nine hole course. Scott Coleman stated he recently had a high school reunion at Lincoln Park and said the staff was fantastic.

Item 6: For the Good of the Community

Tawny Espinoza suggested the Aquatics Instructors have bios posted on the City's website and/or posted at the pools, to provide parents with additional information regarding their child's lifeguard. Traci Wieland stated she would pass this suggestion along to the Aquatics Division.

Dr. Scott McBrayer expressed an interest in Grand Junction hosting a national race, similar to the Warrior Dash, stating these types of races utilize the natural environment of where they are holding the race. The Warrior Dash included a four mile race with ten military style obstacles, including a mud pit, cargo nets, barriers, etc. and had over 8,000 runners during the weekend. Mr. McBrayer stated this type of event would promote the community and would bring runners, families, friends, and spectators from all over. Dr. McBrayer stated it is a great event for the community and for people of all athletic abilities, not just for the trained athletes. He also stated he had recently talked to the coordinators of the Warrior Dash who stated they would be willing to discuss bringing the event to Grand Junction, but would require 180 acres to design the course, along with approximately 35-40 acres of parking. Rob Schoeber stated the Recreation staff is always eager and willing to look at implementing these types of events. Discussion ensued, with the Board expressing an interest in pursuing the idea further, even if it means starting a smaller event of our own. Tawny Espinoza asked about the proceeds and what percentage goes back to the City. Traci Wieland committed to putting together a committee to review the idea; Dr. Scott McBrayer and Tawny Espinoza both volunteered to assist with the committee.

Item 7: Future Agenda Items

Item 8: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist