

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – May 7, 2015

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Dr. Scott McBrayer at 11:58 a.m.

Meeting Location: Canyon View Park

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bob Wiig
Dr. Scott McBrayer
Kristy Emerson
Kyle Emert
Marc Litzen
Scott Coleman
Chris Kennedy (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: Gary Schroen

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

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Scott Coleman moved to approve the April 9, 2015 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Kyle Emert seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

The Board members welcomed Councilman Chris Kennedy.

Item 3: Off-leash Dogs Update

Rob Schoeber and Mike Vendegna recently met with Bureau of Reclamation and learned there are several things that must be done before the permit can be completed, including planting bushes and trees. At this time, Engineering has hired a consultant that specializes in this process. Once the requirements have been met, it is estimated to take 3-6 weeks before the plan is approved. Staff will then take the off-leash dog proposal to City Council for approval. The hope is to have the area opened for the public by the end of summer.

Item 4: Midwest Regional Conference Update

Rob Schoeber provided an update on the successful 2015 Midwest Regional Conference and reviewed the survey results (See attached). Scott Coleman discussed the value of the emergency preparedness sessions he attended, stating the training was excellent and very important information, as many disaster situations would directly impact parks and recreation.

Scott Mc Brayer discussed the recreation center session, stating it was very beneficial to learn from many other organizations who have successfully overcome various obstacles to build a recreation center in their communities. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a feasibility study, and ways to begin moving forward in pursuing a recreation center for Grand Junction. The importance of educating the public on what the facility would offer that the community does not already have was also discussed. The Board agreed the focus of the public message should be that a “community center” is needed that would provide opportunities for all ages, including preschool, after school, seniors, etc.; basically, the ability to give the community a global quality of life that they haven’t had here before. The Board also discussed the possibility of pursuing a recreation district, and suggested a public survey to begin the process. Rob Schoeber stated staff will begin pursuing this with City Council. The Board agreed it is time to start the process.

Item 5: Lunch Loop Trails

Rob Schoeber reported on the long standing partnership between the City and COPMOBA, who is now proposing to do improvements along the lunch loop bike park area. The group wants to move some access points and create a better flow for the users, including a ski hill type of set up with three different levels of difficulty for the bike park.(See attached proposed map) The improvements will also include a strider area. Recreation staff is currently reviewing the possibility of purchasing some equipment and starting a strider program.

Item 6: Canyon View Playground Update

Traci Wieland reported the grand opening for the Canyon View playground is tomorrow, May 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., with the official ribbon cutting scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Item 7: Project Updates

Traci Wieland reported interviews have begun for the West Lake skate park design build firms. The \$23,000 project includes minor improvements with street style features and is scheduled for completion by October 2015.

Phase I of the Las Colonias Park project is moving forward as scheduled. The trail is in, and the shelter/restroom and parking will be completed by early June. Crews will then begin working on the remaining trail work, landscaping, etc., with the grand opening scheduled for July 11, 2015.

Rob Schoeber provided an update on the downtown splash pad, stating unfortunately, people are lifting their children over the new planters/fencing and still playing in the fountain. Staff has closed the water feature and is waiting for new signs to arrive that state the fountain is not for public use. Once the signs are in place, Park Patrol will begin enforcement.

Item 8: For the Good of the Community

Mike Vendegna has received a request from the frisbee golfers to put a warning sign up that play is in progress to alert other visitors to the area. Staff has also ordered signs for each tee pad that will have directions, a large map, and display boards for event/tournament information, etc.

Bob Wiig reported he recently participated in the OWLS Outdoor Wilderness Lab, which is a five year pilot program sponsored by the School District and Parks and Wildlife for 6th graders. The program is paid for by GOCO and includes numerous outdoor and wilderness programs, including archery, fishing, hunting, agriculture, etc. This is the third year of the very impressive program that gets kids outside and away from all technology for a full and active five day week.

Item 9: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administration Specialist