

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

April 18, 2005

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, April 18, 2005 at 11:39 a.m. at Pinon Grill, Tiara Rado Golf Course, 2057 S. Broadway to discuss workshop items. Those present were Councilmembers Harry Butler, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer, Jim Spehar and President of the Council Bruce Hill. Council-elect Teresa Coons was also present. City Staff present were City Manager Kelly Arnold, City Attorney John Shaver, Administrative Services Director Ron Lappi, Parks and Recreation Director Joe Stevens, Golf Course Manager Travis Bunkelman, Maintenance Supervisor Doug Jones, Recreation Supervisor Traci Altergott and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin.

Summary and action on the following topics:

1. **PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON GOLF COURSES:** Parks and Recreation Director Joe Stevens introduced the topic and deferred to the Golf Course Manager Travis Bunkelman. Mr. Bunkelman reviewed the trends for golf play, both locally and nationally. He said there has been a big downturn in golf nationwide. Weather certainly impacted the courses locally in 2004 as there was a long, cold winter. Mr. Bunkelman referred Council to a number of spreadsheets that have been developed for tracking purposes for revenues, expenditures, number of rounds, etc. He also had an informal study that was done of the western slope golf courses which showed every course to be down in rounds. He noted there are more courses so there is more competition. Councilmember Palmer noted that Adobe Creek and Chipeta Pines are the only two local courses making money. Mr. Bunkelman advised that not only do those courses not have a golf pro on staff, they don't maintain the courses to the degree the City does nor provide the level of customer service provided by the City.

Mr. Bunkelman noted that the Department has made various changes to reduce operating expenses including using volunteer rangers. Administrative Services Director Lappi added that the City went to a tiered system with the golf courses, with Tiara Rado being slightly higher in cost than Lincoln Park. City Manager Arnold advised that Staff has also been given the latitude to work with pricing with organizations and running specials such as with youth golf. Mr. Bunkelman mentioned some of the specials they are having. Council-elect Teresa Coons mentioned partnering with Steps to a Healthier US as another possibility for partnership.

Mr. Bunkelman talked about the two pro shops and the plans of operations for each.

Maintenance Supervisor Doug Jones then related information regarding the course itself. There are no big projects for the courses planned for this year. They have cut expenses by having the seasonal crew do their work and then work in other Parks Department areas. Complete removal of the tamarisk at both courses has resulted in the water table rising. City Manager Arnold inquired about the dying trees at Lincoln Park. Mr. Jones said it is a combination of age, salty soils and a change in watering.

Councilmember Spehar inquired how Staff felt about making changes to Lincoln Park. Mr. Bunkelman felt that the driving range area at Tiara Rado serves as a good learning center. He did not think there would be justification for building an additional nine holes at Tiara Rado in the near future. He felt that 9-hole golf courses are few and not used as much but that Lincoln Park was still popular with seniors and juniors.

Other marketing ideas were discussed and will be explored.

Action summary: Council thanked the Parks and Recreation Staff for the information.

- 2. STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE ON OBJECTIVE 15A PRIORITIZING PARKS MASTER PLAN PROJECTS:** Councilmembers Enos-Martinez, Butler and McCurry served on the Strategic Plan Subcommittee to prioritize the Parks Master Plan. Parks and Recreation Director Stevens directed Council's attention to the Revised Parks Master Plan that identified projects in Tiers 1, 2, and 3. He noted that improvements to Burkey, Horizon and Bluffs West Parks were in Tier 1. Councilmember Palmer questioned Horizon Park being identified as a priority when it was his recollection that was on hold. Councilmember Enos-Martinez stated that there are pressures to do some minimal work at these three parks and the Committee felt doing small projects, such as trails and shelters, could be accomplished with the budget identified and have a start in each. Councilmember Spehar expressed concern that little projects such as these then set expectations for more work.

Council President Hill stated that Tier 1 projects amount to about \$5 million. Administrative Services Director Lappi advised that resources have been identified to accomplish the projects in Tier 1 over the next five years. City Manager Arnold noted that the site plan for Bookcliff Middle School will not allow for a neighborhood park so those resources are freed up. Council-elect Coons suggested partnerships with neighborhood groups for some of the labor.

Clarifications were made on other items in the Revised Master Plan. The irrigation system at Lincoln Park was brought up as a concern. The pipes are old and

frequently get pin-hole leaks that take time to come to the surface. Installation of a pump station has helped. It was recommended that the entire system be replaced at one time instead of making repairs as they occur.

Council President Hill noted that perhaps when the new Council is seated, the Plan be revisited. Councilmember Spehar said he is comfortable going forward as recommended by the Committee rather than delaying going forward with time sensitive projects such as the school projects.

Items left to do at Canyon View Park were discussed as well as the revisions that were needed at Los Colonias due to the Parkway. City Manager Arnold said the subject of a dog park is being revisited by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Parks and Recreation Department Director Joe Stevens stated that two sites have been suggested: one along the river and one at Canyon View Park. Enforcement of the dog leash law was encouraged.

Action summary: Councilmembers seemed to approve of the Tier 1 priorities, noting the first three items on the list are already in motion.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.