

Parks Improvement Advisory Board Regular Meeting - January 3, 2012

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Bruce Hill at 11:39 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Bruce Hill
Harry Butler
Lena Elliott
Tom Kenyon
Craig Meis

Alternate Members Present:

Walt Bergman
Paul Cain
Sam Susuras

Alternate Members Absent:

Jamie Hamilton
Donna Ross

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

Rob Schoeber, Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent

Location:

Mesa County Fairgrounds Community Room

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Harry Butler moved to approve the October 4, 2011 Parks Improvement Advisory Board minutes. Mayor Tom Kenyon seconded.

Motion adopted by the Parks Improvement Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

Item 3: Lincoln Park Renovation Update

Rob Schoeber provided a brief background on recently developed in-house parks assessment/inventory and discussed current infrastructure needs, specifically related to restrooms, shelters, and playgrounds. In 2011 the critical needs list was presented to City Council, at which time the Council allocated \$2 million towards improving the “critical” items identified. Since that time, the Lincoln Park master plan has been updated and Traci Wieland and Mike Vendegna have taken the lead on the renovation project. Rob Schoeber commended the two Superintendents for their excellent work overseeing the project. Lena Elliott agreed, expressing what a wonderful job they did during their presentations at the community meetings. Traci Wieland provided a brief update on the current status of the renovation project, stating the largest impacts will be on the restrooms, playgrounds, and shelters. Mrs. Wieland reported on the community meetings were for discussing locations, needs, suggestions, etc., while remaining focused on the core areas of the project. In addition, the 2012 budget includes funds for tennis court repairs (small fills, crack fills, and repainting). During the meetings, the public consensus was to relocate the restrooms to more

visible and user friendly locations. Community members were also asked for additional ideas for improvements, should the City be able to obtain GOCO grants and/or additional funding. Suggestions for additional funding include a new fully accessible playground, additional play features near east shelter, an arboretum trail system with accessible trails, additional parking (relocation of the horseshoe pits: approximately 60 additional spaces, angled parking along Gunnison Avenue: approximately 30 additional spaces), removal of the loop road, and a tennis court renovation that includes designated pickleball courts, USTA quick start tennis, and regulation tennis courts. The City is currently pursuing funding from USTA for the proposed tennis area improvements, and is applying for a GOCO grant for the removal of the loop road. In addition, the swimming pool's locker rooms are being renovated in 2012 along with the replacement of the waterslide pump; the main pump and filter are scheduled for replacement in 2014. Discussion ensued regarding the Gates Foundation, which once committed \$250,000 to the ice skating rink, as they may be a source for additional funding. The park entrance on 12th Street was discussed, with staff members stating a right turn lane will be built in to provide a much easier entrance into the park. The Board members expressed concern regarding the proposed location of the east restroom, questioning if there was an area that would receive higher use. Traci Wieland responded the location has been discussed in length and was selected due to the proximity of the shelter, as well as the reduced cost since the sewer line is already in that area. Mrs. Wieland also reported staff is currently undergoing discussions and research regarding what to do with the recently vacated maintenance area. While it would be nice to incorporate this area into the park, it is a dangerous piece of property due to the high volume of golf balls it receives on a daily basis. Discussion also ensued regarding the need for the arboretum and the current area's activities to be able to co-exist, as well as the suggestion for a more definitive use of practice field.

Item 4: Update on the Tower at Lincoln Park

Rob Schoeber provided an update on the Lincoln Park Tower, stating the project is still on time and under budget. As of two weeks ago, the project was reported to be approximately 70% complete, which is still on track for the May 8, 2012 completion date. The building should be completely closed in by the middle of January. The new fencing has been budgeted and is scheduled to be completed in time for play. Rob Schoeber stated he will confirm the sod schedule will not interfere with the upcoming games. The upgrade to the locker room is now underway and will add an additional 3,500 sq. ft. to the existing 5,000 sq. ft. facility. An engineering plan is currently being developed for the driveway/parking area on the North side of the stands. Rob Schoeber stated he would like to schedule another PIAB meeting in the near future to discuss the fees and usage procedures for the new hospitality room and to conduct a tour of the new facility. The goal will be to set fees that are reasonable, fair, and usable for all of the partners and users. Discussion ensued regarding the catering options, in which Mayor Kenyon expressed the importance of letting the customers choose for themselves who they would like to cater their event. Bruce Hill expressed the partners should automatically have access to the hospitality room with their events, yet will need to pay the City a fee for set up/clean up.

Item 5: Financial Report

No questions at this time

Item 6: Other Business

Rob Schoeber provided an update on the 1% for the Arts project at the stadium, stating that based on the last meeting, staff has offered the artist a settlement and has severed the original contract. The calculated amount budgeted for the art project is approximately \$68,000 plus another \$10,500 if needed. Mayor Tom Kenyon suggested the Legends sculptures be considered, as they have been known to accept the budgeted amount and have created some excellent sculptures in the past. The suggestion was for PIAB to support a legends project consisting of sculptures of the community's sports legends, with the City being the major funder of the art project. Discussion ensued, regarding there already being bronze sculptures of the four people responsible for bringing JUCO to Grand Junction and the desire for the art to focus more on the "fans". It was suggested the artist be challenged with creating an art piece that recognizes the fans and spectators of the various sports that occur at the stadium.

Craig Meis provided a brief update on the improvements being made at the Mesa County Fairgrounds, stating the Board is putting \$2.5 million towards renovations that need to take place at the fairgrounds. The County is currently going through major planning to determine ways to better utilize the facility, as it is very heavily used. The goal is to create new amenities that will be fully utilized as much as possible. The renovations have started on East end of the property and will be working west, with the main focus on the middle area. The hope is for the Mesa County Fairgrounds to begin hosting large 21 century events in the near future; therefore, the Board is working to come up with a bigger and broader vision for the facility's use.

Item 7: Future Agenda Items

Hospitality rates and a tour of the stadium building

The April 2012 meeting will be held in the new stadium hospitality room.

Item 8: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist