

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – April 5, 2018

Meeting Location: Parks & Recreation – Conference Room

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay
Marc Litzen
Gary Schroen
Sam Susuras
Byron Wiehe
Bob Wiig
Duke Wortmann

Board Members Absent: Abby Landmeier

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

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Bob Wiig at 12:02 p.m.

Item 2: Approve Minutes

Bob Wiig asked for clarification on the first sentence under Item 5: Good of the Community. The sentence was amended to read, “The developer for Pinnacle Ridge property will be going back before City Council on Wednesday to discuss the Board’s decision and the option of accepting cash in lieu of land.” Sam Susuras made a motion to approve the March 1, 2018 meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Marc Litzen and carried unanimously.

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

Item 3: Community Center Feasibility Study

Traci Wieland gave the board an update on the Feasibility Study process and timeline. The second round of community and stakeholder meetings was completed in early March. The second round of stakeholder meetings included a build-a-center exercise in which the stakeholders created facilities based on a \$20M budget. The amenities that consistently rose to the top were a leisure aquatic areas, gymnasiums, and fitness spaces. Currently the committee is working on a finalizing a statistically valid survey that will be sent to 3,500 households in the Grand Junction City limits. After that survey is mailed, the survey will be available online for wider community participation. The group will take those results back to Council with their final report in July. The Board talked at length about the desire to link this project with development of outdoor field space. The Board sees a great need for field and practice space in this community.

Item 4: Golf Request for Proposals Process

Rob Schoeber advised the board that the City received a number of proposals during the process which included a lot of good feedback. Ultimately it was determined that an outside company could not run Golf operations more efficiently than the City. As a result of the Head Pro vacancy, and in an effort to aid recruitment, staffing for the Golf division has been reorganized. A “Director of Golf” will report to the Department Director and oversee the Tiara Rado Golf Course and Golf Maintenance Operations. A separate Head Golf Pro will oversee Lincoln Park Golf Course and report to the Department Director. Additionally, a Financial Analyst (funding split between Golf and General Fund) will be added.

Item 5: For the Good of the Community

Traci Wieland reported on behalf of Mike Vendegna that the Parks Division is working on refurbishing the North Avenue medians from 12th Street to 29 Road. The West restrooms at Stocker Stadium are in the process of being refurbished. That project should be completed by early May. Additionally, the Emerson Park restroom renovation bid is open. There are six parks which are receiving auto locking doors as part of a pilot program. If this program is successful, auto locks may be installed on a wider range of facilities. Finally, last week the playgrounds at Lincoln and Rocket Parks were closed for repairs to the poured in place surfacing. Those repairs are complete and the playgrounds are re-opened.

Rob talked with the board about some changes in the Parks division. Due to a vacancy in the Cemetery staffing, and at the request of Mike Vendegna, the Parks Division has been reorganized. Mike Vendegna is now a Parks Supervisor over the Cemetery and Weeds operation and Ron Felt is the interim Parks Superintendent while that vacancy is being filled. The Board appreciates Mike’s years of service and dedication to the Parks Division as its Superintendent and is pleased that he can continue to work for the Department.

Bob Wiig inquired about the plans for Whitman Park. Rob Schoeber indicated that the ideas for its redevelopment are still on the table, however, without relocation of the services accessed by the homeless community to an area outside of downtown; the challenges at Whitman Park will remain.

Item 7: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 12:54 p.m.

Next meeting: May 3, 2018 at 12:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist