

Orchard Mesa Pool Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – March 12, 2015

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Duncan McArthur at 1:42 p.m.

Meeting Location: Parks and Recreation Administration Office

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Jeff Leany
Duncan McArthur
Rose Pugliese

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent
Pete Ashman, Recreation Coordinator
Tricia Rothwell, Leisure Service Representative

Item 5: Select Chairperson

Rose Pugliese nominated Duncan McArthur.

Item 4: Financial Discussion

Traci Wieland offered to discuss the 2014/2015 budget comparison line by line. Duncan asked about Lottery Funds – Mesa County, Traci explained that was the portion of operating costs and capital projects that Mesa County pays for. Rose Pugliese stated that the County uses Conservation Trust Funds. Traci explained that utilities are now paid by a city interfund. Traci stated that we have remained status quo to the budget the last six to eight years other than going down just a little bit. Repairs and maintenance have taken a hit because the facility is 30 years old. Duncan asked if the doors have been replaced. Traci answered that they have not been replaced; Larry is still compiling bids; but that project will come out of the 2015 budget. Rose asked if we are projecting revenues to increase and what that is based on. Traci replied that we have worked very diligently to work with the school district calendar when offering swim lessons. Pete added that the pool was closed for over a month in 2014. Rose stated that she didn't see any red flags with the budget. Traci added that the School District is now assuming the utilities and will reimburse the City. Jeff Leany noted that the utilities budget went down. Pete explained that the boilers and water heater were recently repaired and should be more efficient. Jeff asked what we saw as the future of the pool with declining revenue; shut it down and use our resources elsewhere? Traci replied that the citizens of Grand Junction need a year-round amenity to learn life-saving skills such as swimming lessons. Jeff suggested people could use the college. Pete stated that it is not as user friendly based on depth and that everyone can use our pool safely. Pete added that the college is not conducive to family time either. Duncan McArthur mentioned that the possibility of building a community center could jeopardize Orchard Mesa Pool. Traci replied that a community center could help Orchard Mesa by becoming a facility to offer swimming lessons all the time and the community center could function as the leisure drop-in facility. Traci added that a community center would not compete with health clubs as it could offer a leisure pool, drop in gym times, and community rooms; not the elaborate fitness component that belongs in fitness centers. Jeff Leany asked what needs to be done; increase revenue? Traci answered that raising fees would not work because people would not be willing to pay \$6.50 or \$7.50 for just a "box of water". Traci added that the

solution is to provide a community center for the leisure aspect and a learn-to-swim and lap swim facility. Duncan asked what Orchard Mesa would need to be considered a true community center. Traci said additional square footage, a gym, space that can be used regardless of the school calendar, meeting rooms, and additional amenities for the pool such as zero-depth entry, water features. Jeff asked what the capital outlay would be to do those things. Traci responded that it would take 100's of thousands of dollars. Jeff then stated you would need to look at return on investment. Traci agreed and stated that it may make more sense to build a community center to fill that niche and make Orchard Mesa our learn-to-swim and lap swim facility. Jeff asked how much the school district uses the facility. Traci answered that they have not used it very much but that we would love to be a part of some sort of curriculum that would include the pool. Pete added that they have reached out to the principal and P.E. teachers. Duncan asked if the facility was under used. Traci stated that it doesn't fit what people want these days, and that from a learn-to-swim perspective it is not under-utilized. Pete added that we are being utilized well during the times we are open, and it's the times we are not open that we need to find a use for.

Rose Pugliese started discussion about the attendance report. Rose noticed that the Fruita Community Center had a huge impact. Traci added that the opening of the Mavs Center decreased our attendance also. Duncan McArthur speculated that another community center would decrease attendance even more. Traci Wieland responded that from a learn-to-swim perspective it would increase; as more kids go to pools more parents will realize their kids need lessons. Pete Ashman added that the purpose of the pools is to keep people from swimming where it is dangerous. Pete commented that we are either going to spend money keeping the pools open or spend money paying the fire department and search and rescue.

Item 6: Financial Discussion

Item 5: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Rothwell
Leisure Service Representative

Attach all handouts to the minutes