

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

November 17, 1993

Called to order by Chairman Karen Madsen at 12:14 p.m.

Item 1

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Frank Dunn
John Gormley
Jamie Hamilton
Dr. Lynn James
Dennis King
Karen Madsen
Keith Mumby

Members not present:

Alan Workman

Staff present:

Ted Novack, Director
Don Hobbs, Parks Manager
Doug Jones, Golf Superintendent
Lynda Lovern, Rec. Superintendent
Ray Coca, Rec. Superintendent
Keri Bailey, Rec. Secretary

Item 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER

A motion was made by Dr. James to approve the minutes for the month of October.

Seconded by John Gormley.

Approved: Yes 7 No 0

Item 3

RIVERFRONT COMMISSION REPORT - DR. LYNN JAMES

Dr. James gave a report on the Riverfront Meeting held on November 16, 1993.

The Riverfront Retreat is January 8, 1994 at the Mesa Federal building. It will be a breakfast meeting.

Old Business - Mayor Theobald told the Riverfront Commission that he likes what they are doing.

New Business - Modesto Galvan gave the Commission a presentation on Hispanics and the Connected Lakes area. He would like to come up with a memorial honoring them at the area.

John Schneiger, City Manager of Fruita, made a presentation to the Commission on the Fruita Master Plan. He would like to dove tail any development of the Riverfront and Kokepelli trail system with their plans.

Committee Reports - Blue Heron II construction has begun.

The Junior Service League shelter is on hold, because of problems with installing the concrete pad. They would like to talk to Don Hobbs and Mike Vendegna about staking some of the trees up.

Operations - a boy scout would like to make some signs for the trails, and he has been told to contact Kurt Mill from State Parks, and Don Hobbs from City Parks, to determine the restrictions and types of materials that must be used.

Intergovernmental Meeting - will be held at the Kettle Restaurant on December 9th at 7:00 a.m.

Finance - need to raise money and property clearance for Blue Heron III.

Public Comment - Kurt Mill said he would help the boy scout with the construction of the signs.

Item 4

1994/1995 FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

Karen Madsen asked for public comment of the 1994/1995 Fees and Charges Policy.

Carl Posteher of the Grand Valley Senior Golf Association told the Board that he is the spokesman for the Association. He said they felt that if we wait ten years to build the additional nine holes at Tiara Rado Golf Course, the seniors will not be around to play it. He asked why the City purchased the land if they did not have enough money to pay for the construction of the course. The seniors think the City should get a bond to start the construction in 1994.

Carl said the seniors do not like the proposal of no nine hole rates at Tiara Rado until after 4:30. The seniors have their nine hole golf tournaments on the third Thursday of every month at Tiara Rado Golf Course, and this would kill their tournament. He asked the Board not to kill the most prominent senior club in the Grand Valley.

The seniors also do not like the elimination of the winter golf rates. Carl said the course becomes a substandard course in the winter because of the temporary greens and tees. Carl said the seniors are getting an unfair increase in fees from 1993 to 1994, and they feel they should get a fair increase.

Carl said that one of the handouts he received from the City, mentioned the fee increases would fund the nine hole construction and other capital improvement projects. Carl asked the Board to explain what those capital improvement projects are.

Keith Mumby asked Carl how many rounds of golf each senior plays in one year. Carl said he has played 104 18-hole rounds this year including out of town courses and tournaments.

Keith Mumby asked Carl about their senior tournaments at Tiara Rado on the third Thursday of the month. He asked if eliminating this tournament would kill the Association. Carl said they have 120 people participate in this tournament and it would hurt.

John Gormley pointed out to Keith Mumby and Carl Posteher that in the latest golf fee proposal the nine hole rates will be allowed at Tiara Rado except on weekends and holidays.

Ted Novack thanked John Gormley for pointing that out. Ted told Carl that he does not think the Council blundered by purchasing the 80 acres adjacent to the Tiara Rado Golf Course. The Parks Master Plan identified this land for two possible purposes; as an additional nine holes or a regional park site.

Ted said instead of adding a new 18 hole golf course, we decided it would be more cost effective to add 9 holes to Tiara Rado. This will save the infrastructure and development costs of a new course. Ted said there are 27 hole golf courses in Southern Arizona and they have been very successful. You can have an 18 hole tournament and keep 9 holes open to the public. You can also shut down 9 holes for maintenance, while 18 holes remain open for public play.

Ted said the City Council mandated that golfers will pay for the land and the construction of the new 9 holes. A portion of the fee increases will be put in the expansion fund to prepare for the construction phase.

Ted said that he and the finance director met and discussed a bond debt for the construction, but they have been told by bond companies that there is not enough money after operating expenses to cover the bond. They said the City would have to back the bond by general fund dollars, which would have to be endorsed by the public in a vote.

Carl Posteher asked how the land was paid for at 24 Road and I-70. Ted told him it was general fund money.

Ted told Carl that the golf courses have to pay for themselves because they are an enterprise fund, and that is the way the policy is set up.

Carl asked about the capital improvement projects. Doug Jones told him that he has certain projects budgeted every year to improve the golf courses. Carl asked if Doug will have enough money for the expansion in the year 2000 if he spends it on capital projects. Doug told Carl to come by his office, and he would show him the ten year plan and explain it to him.

A.C. Corder asked if the softball players will pay for the land purchased at 24 Road and I-70. Ted told A.C. that this land will have many users other than softball players. Jamie Hamilton told A.C. that the City Council has made the decision that the golfers will pay for the land and construction of the new 9 holes at Tiara Rado.

Doug Jones told the Board that the reason we have eliminated the winter rates at the courses, is that the courses incur more damage during the winter months, and if anything people should be paying more because of maintenance costs. Doug said the latest fee proposal was developed with input from the Men's' and Ladies' golf clubs, and they are happy with it. Doug said Paul Sheetz was there with the Men's Club, and he is also a senior.

Judd Terrin asked about the green flags on the new property. Doug Jones told him those were for the wet lands survey and environmental studies that were done.

Leo Porter told the Board that he respected the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, but if they did not compromise on the fees that many seniors will get golf memberships in Montrose and Moab.

Keith told Leo that it is more expensive to golf in Montrose. Leo said they are working on a blanket deal with them, which is more than the City will do.

Carl Posther asked why the seniors are getting a 25% increase when adults are only getting a 12.5% increase. Doug Jones told him that seniors receive a 20% discount on a season ticket. Doug said the per round fees with a ticket will be the same in 1994 because the wear and tear on the golf course is the same, regardless of whether you are a senior or an adult.

A.C. Corder said that during the day the seniors are mostly the only ones who use the golf course.

Paul Sheetz told the Board that he thinks the fees are fair, and that seniors have to pay the same price for gas as everyone does. They shouldn't expect big discounts on everything.

Frank Dunn told the senior golfers that the Board has a deep appreciation for them. He told them that the Board doesn't like to raise fees, but we need to look to the future. Costs are high and it takes planning. He said he appreciated their comments, and the Board is trying to keep the fees down. He said if you compare our fees to the rest of the nation, golfers are still getting a bargain.

Judy Humphreys asked the Board why there is an extra fee for nonresidents if the golf courses pay for themselves. Ted Novack told Judy that the courses used to be subsidized, and they borrow money from the general fund.

A motion was made by John Gormley to recommend the 1994/1995 fees and charges policy, with the changes in the golf fees, to the City Council.

Seconded by Dr. James.

Approved: Yes 7 No 0

Janet Ryan, President of the Grand Valley Wave, made a presentation to the Board. She told the Board that their swim club formed this year. They started out with 10 swimmers and now have 30 swimmers. Their club is a summer club and they have been practicing at the Fruita Pool. They also practice one day a week in the winter. Their club is low cost and can be competitive if the children want that, or they can just have fun swimming. They feel they will have 50 swimmers next year. They feel they are running out of room and are looking at other pools.

Frank Dunn asked Janet if they are asking for Orchard Mesa Pool. Janet said they would like to use Lincoln Park Pool so some of their kids could practice for 50 meter events. Frank asked Janet if they are asking for pool time. Janet said they haven't asked yet, but they will. Frank told her to get in touch with Lynda Lovern, Recreation Superintendent, to work out the details.

Hale Adams of the Dolphins told the Board that the Dolphins endorsed the Grand Valley Wave this year and welcomed them to their events. Hale said the Dolphins use Mesa State College Pool in the winter, and it is small, but it suits their needs. Hale said the Dolphins own all of the lane and timing equipment at the Lincoln Park Pool, and they own half of this equipment at Orchard Mesa Pool.

Dr. James asked Janet if they have tried Palisade pool. Janet said they haven't. She said they really want to get some time at the Lincoln Park Pool because of the 50 meter lanes.

Karen Madsen asked Janet if there are is any difference between the Dolphins and the Grand Valley Wave. Janet told Karen that the Wave is less expensive, and their philosophy is to have fun and excel if they want to. They also encourage other interests in the winter. They will let their kids go on vacation in the summer if they want to.

Lynda Lovern asked Janet if they have any water time commitment in 1994. Janet said they have to wait until the first of next year before they will know.

Jamie Hamilton told Janet that he believes in what they are doing and she should come back to us with a proposal. Janet said they would like to be cosponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, and would like to have the same consideration as the Dolphins do.

Frank Dunn told Janet that the Board is supportive of their swim club, and there is room for two swim clubs in the valley. He said it is important they would together, and that Lynda Lovern would work with both clubs.

Ted Novack told Janet that their group and the Dolphins need to get together to work something out. Then they can meet with Lynda Lovern.

Lynda told the Board that Orchard Mesa Pool is available in the summer from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Karen Madsen thanked Janet for her presentation.

Item 6

1993 VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Parks and Recreation Staff gave the board two nominations for the volunteer service award. The Board was told to call in their votes by Friday.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Keri Bailey
Parks and Recreation Board Secretary