

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

April 17, 1996

Item 1 Called to order by Chairman John Gormley at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: John Gormley
Jamie Hamilton
Karen Madsen
Keith Mumby
Dr. Lynn James
Frank Dunn

Members Not Present: Dennis King

Staff Present: Erik Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Asst. Director
Shawn Cooper, Park Planner
Lynda Lovern, Recreation Supervisor
Gail Woodmansee, Sr. Admin. Secretary

Item 2 Minutes - March 27, 1996

Jamie Hamilton moved and Keith Mumby seconded a motion to approve the March 27, 1996 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes.

Approved: Yes 6 No 0

Item 3 Public Comment

A. Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.)
Present: Betty Smith, Jack and Katherine Nelson, and Mary Halsey.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a national organization and one of their functions is researching and determining placement of historical markers. Local members of the DAR presented historical and background information on the Old Spanish Trail, its relationship to the Colorado River and its relationship to the Grand Valley. The DAR has been in contact with Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell on current legislation with the National Trails Act and will be present at a luncheon April 27 at Mesa State College. (All Board members are invited to attend the luncheon and should contact DAR members for a reservation).

The DAR is requesting permission to place their symbolic "Madonna" marker at Eagle Rim Park (Orchard Mesa) when the park is developed. Eagle Rim Park is close to the original crossing of the Old Spanish Trail and felt its historical significance should be recognized. Bob Cron with the Riverfront Commission and Urban Trails Committee supports placement of the marker at Eagle Rim Park.

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A letter from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in support of the project will be forwarded to the DAR.

Jamie Hamilton moved and Karen Madsen seconded a motion to endorse the entire project and placement of the historical marker at Eagle Rim Park upon development.

Approved: Yes 6 No 0

**B. Bureau of Land Management Mountain Park Proposal - Linda Boody
Present: Linda Boody, BLM, Pat Kennedy, Bob Cron, Jim Majors, Yeulin Willett**

The Bureau of Land Management currently manages a 1,100-1,200 acre tract known as Bangs Canyon which is utilized by hikers, motorized and non-motorized bikes, horse back riders, etc. and due to budget constraints and staff limitations, would like to see a cooperative agreement with other agencies for the management and/or improvements to the area. The land includes the Tabeguache Trail which links Grand Junction to Montrose.

The City of Grand Junction owns a 40 acre tract adjoining the BLM land along with owning the "Painted Bowl" area across Monument Road. In addition, the City and Urban Trails Committee also identified a trail network within the land adjacent and south of the Ridges known as "Colinas de Valle" which will allow future development of the area while maintaining the trail/open space areas. Mesa County also owns land and would likely dedicate the land once a plan is in place.

Under the Recreation and Public Services Act, the City could lease the area. The land was leased by the Museum of Western Colorado for paleontology research, its natural resources, and trails, but was never used. The parcel was listed for disposal but the 10 year lease with the Museum prevented the area from being sold. This lease expires in 1996.

The increased population in the area and the popularity of outdoor recreation has caused an influx of users. Generally, users are conscientious but with the population increase, the abuse and misuse is evident. An adhoc committee consisting of the various user groups (mountain bikers, hikers, rock climbers, horseback riders, motorized vehicles-ATV's), has been established. Each group will evaluate their position, potential conflicts, necessary enhancements, etc., then present their findings and recommendations to the adhoc committee. The adhoc committee will produce a recommendation for review by the Bureau of Land Management's Area Manager, Katherine Robertson.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently has numerous existing and potential projects with limited resources. There is significant interest from the City's perspective for the Bangs Canyon property and a possible cooperative effort with various agencies will need to be researched. School District 51 could be a good resource for area enhancements with outdoor classrooms and community service projects.

Advisory Board members recommended support of the mountain park concept, continue dialogue with the BLM and possibly have a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member on the adhoc committee.

Lynn James moved and Karen Madsen seconded a motion to continue the dialogue with the Bureau of Land Management to engage in a cooperative agreement for future development of the area.

Approved: Yes 6 No 0

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**C. Grand Junction Avalanche Football
Present: Rob Payne, Owner and Chester Randall, player**

The Avalanche football team is a member of the Colorado Football Conference (CFC) consisting of 13 Colorado teams. The league has a 10 game schedule, playoffs, and a Super Bowl. The Avalanche originally played in Glenwood but moved to Grand Junction to hopefully garner greater support with a larger population base. In 1995, all of their games were held at Palisade High School and attendance was minimal.

Based on the attendance figures, the Avalanche would have liked to move all of their games to Stocker Stadium (8 home games) but the facility will not handle the number of games and be able to have it ready for high school and college regular season games. The request for the 1996 season is to play one game at Stocker Stadium, July 27, against the Colorado Wildcats-Division I team.

**Jamie Hamilton moved and John Gormley seconded a motion to allow the Avalanche football team to play their July 27 home game at Stocker Stadium.
Approved: Yes 6 No 0**

Item 4 Foresight Park Land

Frank Spiecker, Attorney, submitted a letter to the City of Grand Junction stating that Richard F. and Jacquelyn Dewey would like to liquidate some land assets including the land currently being used as a soccer facility known as Foresight Park. Mr. Dewey would like to know if the City is interested in purchasing the property at this time.

Currently, Foresight Park is used heavily by the soccer groups in Grand Junction and Ken Rabideau, Grand Mesa Youth Soccer Association, has stated that the organization is concerned about losing this facility.

**Keith Mumby moved and Lynn James seconded a motion to continue dialogue with Frank Spiecker on details of a possible purchase option.
Approved: Yes 4 No 0 Abstain 1**

Item 5 Ellis and Associates-National Safety Council-Learn to Swim Program

Present: Julie White, Ellis and Associates, Wally Piccone, Delta Parks and Recreation Department, John Wieder, Montrose Recreation District, Pidge Gray, Montrose Recreation District

Based on previous Parks and Recreation Advisory Board direction, staff contacted Ellis and Associates, which is a privately owned and managed international aquatic program, to make a presentation to the Board. The program began 12 years ago and was initiated due to the large increase in water park facilities. The primary growth area in the last 5 years has been with parks and recreation departments.

The Ellis program has been approved by the National Safety Council and the National Park and Recreation Association Aquatics Advisory Board. The National Safety Council owns the program and they contract with Jeff Ellis and Associates for member training. The National Park and Recreation Association endorses the program.

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The Ellis program is unique. The organization evaluates a facility and must approve the facility before licensing the program. Ellis then trains a trainer and audits the program facilities periodically. There is no fee to the individual learn to swim participant other than the cost of their book which covers several levels of instruction. Other locations have secured corporate sponsorships for the book fees as a way of reducing costs.

This item is informational only and the Parks and Recreation Department will continue dialogue with Ellis and Associates for 1997 programming.

Item 6 Correspondence

A. Climax Mill site

The transfer of the 107 acre Climax Mill site, situated along the Colorado River, to the City of Grand Junction will be on the City Council agenda for this evening. Staff recommends that the Council formally express its intentions to accept a transfer in ownership of the Climax Mill site from the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to the City of Grand Junction contingent upon reaching an agreement that is in the best interests of the City of Grand Junction.

Jamie Hamilton moved and Keith Mumby seconded a motion to approved the staff recommendation requesting Council to formally express its intentions to accept a transfer in ownership of the Climax Mill site.

Approved: Yes 5 No 0

Item 7 Monthly Staff Reports

No comments.

Item 8 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 1996.

Item 9 Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Gail Woodmansee
Sr. Administrative Secretary**