

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

July 18, 1996

Item 1 Called to order by Chairman John Gormley at 12:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: John Gormley
 Jamie Hamilton
 Karen Madsen
 Keith Mumby
 Dennis King

Members Not Present: Frank Dunn
 Dr. Lynn James

Parks/Rec Staff Present: Erik Joe Stevens, Director
 Don Hobbs, Asst. Director
 Shawn Cooper, Park Planner
 Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
 Gail Woodmansee, Sr. Admin. Secretary

Guests: Pat Kennedy, Riverfront Commission
 Bob Cron, Riverfront Commission
 Yeulin Willett, Bangs Canyon Citizen Group
 Tom LeVally, Grand Junction Jaycees
 Eddie Hopper, Grand Junction Jaycees

Item 2 Minutes -- June 20, 1996

Dennis King moved and Karen Madsen seconded a motion to approve the June 20, 1996, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes.

Approved: Yes 5 No 0

Item 3 Public Comment

No public comment.

Item 4 Acquisition of BLM Land -- Little Park Reserve/Bangs Canyon

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended forwarding the proposed BLM land acquisition (1,100 acres) to City Council for formal approval. There are still some concerns to be addressed relating to the portion of land currently leased to Mesa County. The proposal will be scheduled for a future Council/Commissioner breakfast meeting.

Keith Mumby suggested the possibility of acquiring additional acreage bringing the total area to approximately 2,000 acres. This "Mountain Park" would create a unique urban buffer and keep the land off the BLM's disposal list.

Yeulin Willett stated the Bangs Canyon Citizen Group have held several meetings with potentially affected individuals and the only struggle has been dealing with motorized versus non-motorized use. Travel on existing trails does not exclude motorized vehicles and this issue may need to be addressed in a management plan for the area. The ad-hoc committee will be presenting their recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management July 23. The BLM would like the City to use as much of the Bangs Canyon Citizen Group's recommendation as possible but it can be modified.

According to Lynda Boody, BLM, the Museum of Western Colorado and Mesa County still have an interest in working with whoever is in control of the area. There are adjoining parcels which may work for their field programs. At present, they have not imposed any restrictions but would like foot trails that would be off limits to motorized vehicles and bikes.

Karen Madsen moved and Keith Mumby seconded a motion to approve staff's recommendation to enter into a lease with the BLM of the "Little Park Reserve" acreage with the modification on terms for five years.

Approved: Yes 5 No 0

Keith Mumby will serve as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board representative on the BLM's ad-hoc committee.

Item 5 Renaming of Hawthorne Park "Abe's Park"

Karen Madsen moved and Jamie Hamilton seconded a motion to accept staff's recommendation to explore the incorporation of a sensory garden in the planned Botanical Center as a living memorial to Abe Karp or if proponents prefer, recommend City Council grant permission for a memorial statue of Abe Karp be placed in Hawthorne Park.

Approved: Yes 5 No 0

Item 6 Prohibition of Dogs in Canyon View Park

Jamie Hamilton moved and Karen Madsen seconded a motion to accept staff's recommendation identifying areas in Canyon View Park where pets are prohibited and incorporate appropriate language in park signage, provide "pet pick-ups" and enforce leash and "pooper scooper" ordinances.

Approved: Yes 5 No 0

Item 7 Park Project Updates

A. Westlake Park Update

A Westlake neighborhood meeting was held and Jim and Sue Nall recorded comments which were targeting the location of the skate facility and neighbors would like the facility located as far east as possible.

Shawn Cooper has developed a conceptual plan for phase I including the placement of the concrete slab, skate equipment, parking area, and a temporary restroom facility along with cost estimates. Phase II would include a concrete "bowl". Collbran Job Corps may assist with the concrete work resulting in cost savings. UTEC had volunteered to assist with the construction of the equipment but have notified the Jaycees that this will not be possible.

Tom LeVally stated he has traveled to several skate park sites and 80-90% are concrete surfaces. Mr. LeVally would like to see the emphasis changed from a slab and individual skate pieces to as much concrete as possible including a "bowl" and add individual skate pieces at a later date. He suggested the bowl would be a better route than the ramps.

The Grand Junction Jaycees do not have funds committed to this project and Tom LeVally feels they (Jaycees) are being penalized for not committing funds. The Jaycees have committed their funds to a roofing project at their meeting site and will not be able to commit additional funds at this time.

John Gormley and Jamie Hamilton assured Tom LeVally and Eddie Hopper the skate park project is, and has been, a priority with the City Council and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The difficulty has been coordinating this project with the multitude of projects facing the department, identifying funding sources (sale of South Sherwood), coordinating volunteer efforts and meeting with the Westlake Park neighbors to achieve a consensus on the construction and refining design elements.

B. Canyon View Park Status Report

A meeting has been scheduled for July 19 to discuss the construction time line for seeding at Canyon View Park. The time line recommends seeding by September 1 but there may be a delay in getting the .5 million gallons of water per day, to the site by that date.

C. Colorado River Pedestrian Bridge - Update Project Schedule

The Colorado River Pedestrian Bridge project will be bid in two phases (one for south slope access and trail; one for the bridge) and should be bid January 1997.

Item 8 Correspondence

No comments.

Item 9 Monthly Staff Reports

No comments.

Other Parks and Recreation staff will be sponsoring two open houses at Canyon View Park. The tours will be held Sunday, September 29 and Sunday, October 6, 1:00-5:00 p.m. and will provide an opportunity for interested individuals to tour the construction project and see first hand the progress being made.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting, Thursday, August 15, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. Woodmansee
Sr. Administrative Secretary

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