

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

January 16, 1997

Item 1 Called to order by Chairman Dennis King at 11:55 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Dennis King
Jamie Hamilton
Lynn James
Karen Madsen

Members Not Present: John Gormley
Frank Dunn
Dennis King

Staff Present: Erik Joe Stevens, Director
Shawn Cooper, Park Planner
Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent
Gail Woodmansee, Sr. Admin. Secretary

Item 2 Minutes -- November 21, 1996

Jamie Hamilton moved and Lynn James seconded a motion to approve the November 21, 1996, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes.
Approved: Yes 4 No 0

Item 3 Public Comment

No public comment.

Item 4 Two Rivers Convention Center Analysis and Redevelopment Plan

Presented by Barbara Creasman, Director, Downtown Development Authority

The Downtown Development Authority commissioned a study to produce a redevelopment plan for the downtown area. The study was not specific to Two Rivers Convention Center but there is emphasis on that portion of the analysis and how it effects the downtown area. The study was to be completed in three phases; 1) establishing data and background information, 2) look at markets (office space, hotel) and 3) Two Rivers Convention Center. The study was to analyze how it is used now and what are the future goals along with how could it be used.

The information in the study suggested that the DDA would continue to have problems enticing a large hotel or office complex to the downtown area as long as the land in question was owned by private individuals. A bond issue was passed in 1990 allowing \$700-900,000 to be spent on the acquisition of land (4-5 acres) surrounding the convention center which would allow negotiations on a large project.

After background information was compiled, the determination on what would be acceptable to the community would exist.

The study's general findings found that staff has done a good job on booking the facility. The "needs" included improved telecommunications, update an "old" facility and provide additional meeting space. The findings create a "catch-22" situation. For Two Rivers to be a true convention facility, there needs to be a hotel in close proximity. The facility is currently being subsidized over \$200,000/year. The report suggests that the Center creates an \$80,000/year economic impact implied that subsidizing a facility with \$200,000+ per year to generate \$80,000 is not a good business decision.

The study is slated for completion by the end of January. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be asked to review the recommendations and prioritize them with other pending park projects then forward their observations to City Council.

Item 5 Park Project Updates

Canyon View

Canyon View Park is moving along despite a few areas of concern. Earlier this month, Tom Nixon and Rich Davis, of Nixon/Johnson (architects for Canyon View), were killed in a plane crash. We do not know the consequences of this event yet. The project is going well.

Sam Suplizio held a press conference January 21 announcing he and fund raising Co-chair, Tilman Bishop, had raised \$915,000 for the construction of the baseball field in Canyon View Park. A joint PIAB/PRAB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 7:30 a.m. in Two Rivers Convention Center to determine if the Parks Improvement Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would recommend PIAB be authorized to negotiate some of the project components instead of bidding under the city's guidelines. Using the Parks Improvement Advisory Board's 501C3 tax exempt status for donations and construction, negotiating portions of the project will reduce the overall cost.

It is anticipated that a recommendation will be forwarded to Council on February 3, 1997.

Legacy III

The deadline for GOCO funding requests is January 17, 1997. The good news is that the committee has identified four projects for Legacy III consideration; the bad news is finding local matching funds. The projects identified include a trail from 5th Street to Riverside Park, Eagle Rim Park, Climax Mill site development, and acquisition of land at Confluence Point.

Westlake Skate Park

The Architect's estimate for construction of the Westlake Skate Park was \$92,000. The base bids came in at \$154,000. City Council approved additional funding for this project along with the Parks Department adjusting some park projects (deleted Paradise Hills playground from 1997 funding and using \$10,000 from the park upgrade account for landscaping and irrigation). The Public Works Department has completed the parking lot for the park.

Columbine, Darla Jean and Paradise Hills Basketball Courts

The basketball court bids were approved by City Council and work will begin January 27, 1997.

Orchard Mesa HVAC

The bid for the HVAC at Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool was approved and work should begin in February and completed in April.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
January 16, 1997

Item 6 Discussion Items

A. Urban Trails Master Plan

The Urban Trails Master Plan is complete. the Plan will go to the Planning Commission in February then the County and City for final adoption. Comments from developers have been favorable. The plan attempts to tie schools, residential areas, and hubs together.

B. Arts Commission

The Commission on Arts and Culture presented a proposal to City Council requesting 1% of capital construction projects be designated to the Arts. The specifics have not be finalized but it suggests that money on large projects (structures) be designated to art such as sculptures, paintings, etc.

Item 8 Correspondence

No Comment

Item 9 Staff Reports

No Comment

Item 10 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. Woodmansee
Sr. Administrative Secretary

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