

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

November 20, 1997

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Dennis King
Karen Madsen
Dr. Lynn James
Katie Kaufmanis
John Gormley
Jamie Hamilton
Lena Elliott

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

Guests: Barbara Creasman, Director, DDA
Karen Hayashi, DDA Board Member
Mark Hermunstad, DDA Board Member

Item 2 Minutes -- October 16, 1997

Karen Madsen moved and John Gormley seconded a motion to approve the October 16, 1997, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes.

Approved: Yes 7 No 0

Item 3 Public Comment

Las Colonias Park Plan

A joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, RNL Consultants and the DDA will take place on December 4, 1997, 3:30 p.m., at the Harris Building, 619 Main Street, to discuss the park master plan for Las Colonias Park.

Riverfront Trail Network

Bob Cron would like a letter of support from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in order to apply for a State Trail Grant for the Jarvis section of the Riverfront Trail. This section would be the link that would tie Eagle Rim Park, Las Colonias, and Watson Island to the start of the Redlands portion of the trail network which begins in Riverside Park.

Lynn James moved and Jamie Hamilton seconded a motion to approve the authorization for a letter of support from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to the Riverfront Commission supporting the grant request for a trail along the Jarvis property.

Approved: 7 Yes 0 No

Item 4 Two Rivers Convention Center Study - Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

The Downtown Development Authority presented information regarding the redevelopment of downtown and more specifically, Two Rivers Convention Center. This has been an on-going process over the years but in the last 2 1/2 years, emphasis was placed on the area surrounding Two Rivers. The City recommended the DDA hire an outside consultant to determine why a developer would not consider this area. The consultant's

findings stated that Two Rivers Convention Center was outdated, inadequate size and was not an attraction to the downtown area and in fact, could be a disincentive for developers. The consultant recommended upgrades to the facility in order to make it more "user friendly" which would include increasing the exhibit space, meeting rooms and kitchen facilities.

Options identified included:

1. Do nothing (not an option for the DDA)
2. Eliminate the exhibit space (not an option for the DDA)
3. Modest expansion to the south
4. Triple meeting room space; increase kitchen area
5. Modest expansion to the south; triple meeting space; add 150 seat auditorium; construct plaza area in front; add parking

The DDA recommends item #4 (\$2.5-3.6 million) with modifications. This would be \$2-4.6 million. A combination of items #4 and #5 would be approximately \$3 million. The time frame would suggest design to begin as early as 1998. The DDA has \$750,000 in tax increment money to apply to the project.

Joe Stevens stated that currently, the City of Grand Junction's Capital Improvement Plan identifies \$2.24 million identified in 2002 for improvements to Two Rivers. The City currently subsidizes Two Rivers Convention Center \$250-300,000 annually. Any modifications to the facility could increase the general fund subsidy to Two Rivers. Along with the Capital Improvement dollars, the City budgets \$25-60,000 annually for regular improvements to the facility.

The Parks and Recreation Department's goal is to reduce Two Rivers' annual general fund subsidy along with identifying potential customers and areas of improvement. Recently, focus groups (comprised of facility users and potential users) were questioned about the facility, their likes and dislikes, and what would it take to keep them or gain them as a customer. Data is still being evaluated but the meetings were productive and changes to the policies and procedures will be implemented.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is in favor of supporting improvements to Two Rivers Convention Center but not at the expense of other park projects.

Item 5 Budget Material shared with City Council on November 15, 1997

The Parks and Recreation Department's budget was presented to the City Council with favorable response. The number of projects the Department has completed, or is in the process of completing, along with numerous pending projects, is inspiring. The City Council indicated they would like to proceed with additional park projects and improvements.

The same presentation (Power Point) was shown to the Advisory Board and the response was enthusiastic. The City and the Board have accomplished numerous projects in a short amount of time. It was suggested that the presentation be "taken on the road" to service clubs, civic organizations, etc., to display what has been done and what to look forward to.

The Board would like to commend staff for their efforts on all of the projects.

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Item 6 1998/1999 Parks and Recreation Department Fees and Charges Policy

Changes in the Fees and Charges Policy include increases in daily admissions at the pools, pool party rental rates, golf season tickets (no change to per-round fees), cemetery fees, and Two Rivers Convention Center. Additionally, changes were made to the stadium fees and corresponding baseball field at Canyon View. Some changes are necessary to cover the increase in part-time labor resulting from two minimum wage increases in the past 1 1/2 years.

There will be some future discussion regarding the proposed 1999 Swim Meet. This swim meet will require Lincoln Park-Moyer pool to be closed 10 days and would result in a loss of approximately \$30,000. Additional information will be obtained and presented to the board

John Gormley moved and Lena Elliott seconded a motion to approve the Fees and Charges Policy as recommended and forward the recommendation to City Council for adoption.
Approved: 7 Yes 0 No

Item 7 Park Project Update

No comment.

Item 8 Monthly Staff Reports

No comment.

Item 9 Correspondence

No comment.

New Item

Meeting adjourned, 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. Woodmansee
Sr. Administrative Secretary

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