

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Special Meeting - September 29, 1998

Item 1 Called to order by Chairman Lena Elliott at 9:02 a.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Lena Elliott
Jamie Hamilton
Katie Kaufmanis
John Gormley
R. T. Mantlo
Dennis King
Karen Madsen

Staff Present:

Joe Stevens, Director
Don Hobbs, Asst. Director
Doug Jones, Golf Course Superintendent
Gail Woodmansee, Sr. Admin Secretary

Guests:

Ron Lappi, Director, Administrative Services

Item 2 Golf Course Operations

The City entered into a 3-year agreement in 1995 with Jack R. Sommers, Inc. for the operation of both Lincoln Park and Tiara Rado Golf Courses.

On September 8, 1998, Jack Sommers' informed the City that he was not going to submit a proposal for the continuation of golf course pro-shop services. Mr. Sommers stated it was a personal decision and he would remain on during the transition period on a month-to-month basis or until something else came up.

Joe Stevens stated there is a trend throughout the state to bring municipal golf shop services/operations in-house.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed privatization and de-privatization and how this might affect the golf community. Currently, there is a "blend" at the courses. A general concern is will a golf professional work as hard as a paid employee vs. contract employee? The contract employee has monetary incentives that are a direct result of their performance and manager abilities. The Head Golf Pro position would report directly to the Parks and Recreation Director. The proposed salary for the Head Golf Pro is currently anticipated to be around \$43,000/year to manage plus 60% of teaching revenues.

Lena Elliott asked if the City of Grand Junction could renegotiate the terms with Jack Sommers to include some of the items identified. Several of Jack's key staff members have indicated an interest in becoming City employees but Jack stated he will probably be leaving the area and perhaps the state.

Jamie Hamilton stated he is not opposed to the new format but would have liked to have had the numbers back in March.

Under terms of the agreement, Jack Sommers can require the City of Grand Junction to purchase his improvements and inventory based on a "third party" appraisal. There are items the City would need to purchase in order to operate the golf shops. The same would be true for Jack's successor. The City may be able to get a better rate on the golf cart leasing using the government bidding process. Jack Sommers patterned a lease of golf carts at Tiara Rado to conform to the terms of his agreement with the City knowing it expired on December 31, 1998.

There will be input and involvement from the golfers during any recruitment process. There are high expectations from the golfers and staff to maintain or improve the level of service at both golf courses. Advantages of City operated courses and pro shop services include:

- Greater accountability/fiscal controls. Own people (City employees) handling City money
- Better relationships and common goals, objectives and same focus when everyone is working for the same employer.
- Consistent training programs for staff members.
- More revenue to improve golf courses.
- Easier to facilitate promotions and tournaments.
- Better managerial control.
- Consistently applied rules and regulations relative to personnel, purchasing and budgetary practices. Accountability is centralized.

Karen Madsen moved and Dennis King seconded a motion to recommend City Council authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to bring our golf pro services in-house. This would mean hiring rather than contracting for these services and, if authorized, will include one Class A golf professional, one assistant, one teaching professional, one accounting clerk, a 3/4 time motorized cart manager and seasonal workers ranging from 25-50 staff members.

Approved: Yes 6 No 1 (Lena Elliott)

Other

A. Vineyard Christian Church

The Vineyard Christian Church would like to have the Parks and Recreation Department issue them a permit for all the remaining high school football games in Lincoln Park for their tailgate parties. The tailgate parties will include free hot dogs and drinks and there would be no charge. Don Hobbs stated that groups have held tailgate parties over the years without obtaining a permit. If the department issues a permit to Vineyard Christian Church, there may be other organizations wishing to compete for this.

The Board felt this is a non-issue and Vineyard Christian Church could have tailgate parties before the games without a permit as long as no fees are collected.

Adjourn - next Meeting - October 15, 1998

Karen Madsen moved and Lena Elliott seconded a motion to adjourn at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Woodmansee
Senior Administrative Secretary