

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

October 15, 1998

Item 1 Called to order by Chairman Lena Elliott at 12:00

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Lena Elliott
 Jamie Hamilton
 Katie Kaufmanis
 John Gormley
 Karen Madsen

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

Item 2 Approval of Minutes

A. September 17, 1998

Corrections to the September 17, 1998 minutes.

Item 6 - correct to Karen Madsen questioned if Two Rivers should be prioritized with other parks improvement projects since this would adversely affect the development of parks and open space.

Jamie Hamilton moved and Katie Kaufmanis seconded a motion to approve the September 17, 1998 with corrections.

B. September 29, 1998 – Special Meeting

Corrections to the September 29, 1998 minutes.

Item 2 – corrected to “Jamie Hamilton stated he is not opposed to the new format but does not feel that the City can do as good a job as the private sector. Jamie would also have liked to have had the numbers and information back in March. Lena and Jamie both indicated that the recommendation made on September 29, 1998 was most difficult and if a more deliberative time frame could be established it would be most helpful to the Parks Board in evaluating options and opportunities.”

Item 3 Public Comment

None

Item 4 Capital Improvement Projects

A. Eagle Rim Park

The presentation to City Council was favorable and the project will move forward next year with Phase I. The original construction estimate was \$1.1 million and the increases to the project include the added restroom facility and increased parking.

Capital Improvement Projects (continued)

B. Light Shields at Canyon View Park

The City's CIP budget has been modified to include \$20,880 in 1999 for the installation of light shields on all of the sport light fixtures at Canyon View Park. The installation should help with the "spill" light that seems to be affecting the Redlands and H Road residents. The installation of the light shields may reduce the spill light but will not eliminate it entirely.

Lena Elliott stated she would like the product checked at other locations before the City purchases the light shields.

John Gormely stated if the City could show that the shields cut the spill light by a certain percentage, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board could state it has done everything possible short of removing the existing light fixtures and starting over.

Lena Elliott stated she agreed but would like to know if the shields will help.

Joe Stevens stated that we would not spend the money if they will not help. Joe will travel to Louisville, Colorado to look at their lighting system and will report back at the November meeting. The Louisville lights have the shields installed.

C. Parking Lot at Canyon View Park

The City's Public Works Department projected over the past 1-½ years, there has been a 33% increase in traffic on 24 Road (Canyon View Park area). \$438,000 (\$348,000 City funds and \$90,000 CDOT) has been added to the CIP budget (1999) for the addition of 150 parking spaces and possibly a G ROAD entrance for the south end of Canyon View.

The bridge, located at the intersection of 24 and G Roads, will be replaced during the 24 Road construction project and CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) may pay for improvements to the south entrance of Canyon View.

Final decisions by the City Council will be made in November.

Lena Elliott stated Tillie Bishop told her that the Parks and Recreation Department should be applying for GOCO funds and Boettcher Foundation funds.

Joe stated that the department recently submitted two grant requests to GOCO; 1) A Westlake Park playground project with the match requirement being the restroom/landscaping project and 2) Canyon View Park baseball field restrooms.

Joe Stevens stated that the City may be able to leverage the additional funds for grant dollars. A big opportunity may exist with GOCO if the \$75,000/project cap is increased.

Based on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board retreat held in January, 1998, Canyon View Park was voted as the number one priority of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and any additional funds available should be directed at the completion of the park. Eagle Rim was confirmed as the number two project and Two Rivers Convention Center is number three.

Canyon View Parking Lot (continued)

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like the City Council to approve additional funding (\$348,000 in additional city funds) for the construction of the additional parking, trail and landscaping along with the \$20,880 for the light shields at Canyon View.

D. Trust for Public Lands

Lena met with Susan Childs, Trust for Public Lands (TPL), Ron Lappi and Tim Woodmansee regarding the possibility of doing a study to determine if Grand Junction is ready for a tax increase to fund and complete projects such as Canyon View Park, Matchett Park, etc. The \$10,000 study would be split 50/50 between the City and TPL. TPL would do all of the work on the study. The study would be a valuable tool in assessing the current feeling of residents but would make no sense unless the City Council would be willing to take the information to the people and follow through. A similar project was completed in Greeley.

Karen Madsen stated that if Lena is willing to put money toward a study, it must be important and she must have been impressed. The \$5,000 sounds like a bargain.

Lena Elliott will talk with City Council to get their feelings.

E. Horizon Glen

Lena Elliott stated that Tim Woodmansee needed to call Tim Foster and find out what the terms were at early stages of discussion on Horizon Glen (what to buy versus what is donated). Why don't we (the City) buy the property?

Item 5 Monthly Staff Reports

No reports.

Item 6 Correspondence

F. Letter from Mark Fenn – Golf Pro Contract

Jamie Hamilton stated that the department may want to write a letter to all golfers with information on what is going on in the golf division.

Lene Elliott stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should respond to specific requests/concerns.

Other

Two Rivers Convention Center

Lena Elliott stated that meetings with the DDA regarding the CSL report went well. CSL gave an update with their revisions addressing concerns expressed by the DDA.

When the DDA gets their recommendation together, the Board could review and make a joint recommendation to City Council.

Community Hospital

Staff received direction from Joe Stevens and issues were worked out. Lena Elliott questioned who was in charge at Two Rivers and who do they report to. Joe Stevens stated that Donna Redd is acting manager and reports directly to Mari Steinbach, Recreation Superintendent.

Golf Professional

Lena Elliott stated that she thought the City Council was confused and not quite sure what was going on regarding the golf pro position and the presentation to City Council.

Joe Stevens stated that there is quite a bit of anxiety in going from an established pro to another and not knowing exactly what is going to happen. The City Council would like to have more time but would like to keep on track with investigating the in-house operation option.

The department will bring people from communities familiar with the transition process on golf course operations. In addition, the City received RFP's (22-24) from people interested in either a city staff position or a contract employee. The Department spoke with key staffers currently working for Jack Sommers and their preference is to continue to work with the City of Grand Junction and to assist during any transition period.

The lesson coordinator's preference would be to be an employee of the City. The financial manager will do whatever it takes.

Lena Elliott stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board needs to look at both options.

While there is not any pressure from the City Council, there are items that will need attention such as season ticket requests, tournament requests and concessions.

Jamie Hamilton stated that he felt blind sided and that in-house was their only option. Jamie would like to slow down and focus on all of the information and if takes until March, fine. Jamie does not feel that enough information has been presented to make a formal decision.

Lena Elliot stated that there must be a misunderstanding and thought the Board, in making their recommendation, was trying to please the City Council. This was not the case.

Cindy Enos-Martinez asked and Joe Stevens stated that staff has been reviewing the golf course operation since Spring. Initiated by the request/construction of the driving range and the city's financial commitment to the construction of the new range, modifications were necessary. Originally, Jack Sommers, Inc. and Bob Laduke had preliminary discussion for the construction and operation of the driving range but this was insufficient for the return on the City's required investment. The City decided to fund the construction of the driving range and retain the user fees.

Lena Elliott stated at what point do we review department contracts. When did staff?

Joe Stevens stated that the golf pro contract was reviewed three years ago and particulars were reviewed at that time. As a result of several new Parks Board members, all contracts were shared last fall with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

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Golf Professional (Continued)

Jamie Hamilton would like staff to collect data on a “dual track” then review. Staff will need to submit letters back to the 24 letters of interest and get their proposals.

Joe Stevens stated that staff still intends to bring in front range individuals who have experience with in-house operations to share observations with City Council, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and staff.

Lena Elliott stated that the Board will be looking at both contract and in-house options. Lena did not feel there was a comfort zone with the City Council and before bringing the golf course operations in-house and we need to convince them that this is the best way to go.

John Gormley stated that we should give the community an opportunity to comment on the contract vs. employee option.

Gene Kinsey and Reford Theobald indicated a preference for “at-will” status if the golf professional is in-house.

John Gormley stated that, to a degree, Joe Stevens has been unfairly criticized. Jack Sommers knew three years ago that the contract would expire December 31, 1998.

Jamie Hamilton stated that Jack Sommers did not have the same impression. Jamie also heard the City golf operations were weak in capital revenue streams; Lincoln Park is down and Tiara Rado is up. Joe Stevens will share Golf Division 10-year financial projections at the November Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Colorado Parks and Recreation Association Conference

Jamie Hamilton would like to commend Rick Manchester and Mari Steinbach for a good job on the CPRA conference banquet.

Item 7 Next Meeting - November 19, 1998

Item 8 Adjourn

John Gormley moved and Katie Kaufmanis seconded a motion to adjourn at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Woodmansee
Senior Administrative Secretary

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