

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – October 12, 2012

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Tawny Espinoza at 12:08 p.m.

Meeting Location: Western Colorado Botanical Gardens

Roll Call

Board Members Present: David McIlroy
Dr. Scott McBrayer
Bart Dickson
Scott Coleman
Tawny Espinoza
Marc Litzen
Jim Doody (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: Kristy Emerson

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Schoeber, Director
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Scott Coleman moved to approve the September 6, 2012 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Marc Litzen seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Motion adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 6 No 0

Item 3: Lincoln Park Playground Review

Traci Wieland and Mike Vendegna discussed the Lincoln Park playground selection process, stating the City received a total of 17 proposals from nine different vendors. The options have been narrowed down to the top two, as the third finalist did not meet the requirements. Staff recently met with an ADA representative from Colorado Springs who stated the top two designs meet the ADA preference of over 60% of the playground being designed for “all” physical abilities. A community meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 5:30 pm in the Lincoln Park Barn, in effort to gather as much feedback as possible regarding the two selections. The playground design will be presented to City Council for approval on November 7, 2012.

The main three factors everyone is asked to keep in mind while reviewing the options are 1) the fun factor, 2) playability, and 3) accessibility. The Board members reviewed the two plans in detail, discussing the various features available, including the pour in place rubber surfacing, accessibility swings, ground level activities, tree related features, ramping systems, climbing structures, parkour features, and more. Discussion ensued with various questions regarding accessibility, feature options, feature sizes and heights, safety guidelines, etc. While the Board liked both options, they stated the “Playground Systems” option

was preferred, due to its fun and imaginative tree theme, the structure allows for the handicaps children to be more in the middle of the action, and that it provides a large variety of features to keep the kids interested and playing for longer periods of time.

Traci Wieland reported on a meeting scheduled later this afternoon with a local mother of disabled children, who volunteered to review the plans from an accessibility standpoint. In addition, a local daycare provider with several children with sensory issues will also be reviewing the plans and providing feedback. Mike Vendegna reported, weather permitting, crews will begin the tear down process of the existing playground in the near future. The installation of the new playground will not take place until late spring, as the pour in place requires several consecutive days of 51 degree weather or better. The existing playground was requested by a Christian community school that will be assisting in the tear down.

Item 4: Matchett Park Master Plan Discussion

Rob Schoeber stated City Council has identified Las Colonias and Matchett as their top two priorities and funds are being requested in the 2013 budget to initiate the master plan for Matchett Park. Traci Wieland said the intent of today's agenda item was for general brainstorming only, stating staff has no intentions of getting ahead of City Council, they are just wanting to be prepared for the grant process should City Council approve the master plan in the near future.

Mike Vendegna discussed the Matchett Park property, which is approximately 200 acres, and includes the Indian Wash area which will be a very unique and challenging area to plan for. The property also includes 15 floating acres owned by School District 51. The last of the City owned rental homes (located along Patterson Road) has recently been vacated. City Council has given the Parks Department permission to discontinue renting out the house in order to level the area so it may be included in the future park development. Rob Schoeber reported the Fire Department may temporarily use the rental house next spring while station #2 is under construction.

Discussion ensued regarding the various elements and features the Board members would like to see developed at the Matchett Park property. The Board expressed the park should be developed similar to Canyon View Park, due to the ongoing lack of available open fields in the grand valley. Additional amenities on the wish list included a recreation center, a potential single track mountain biking trail system that is family friendly (perhaps located in the gulch area), running/walking trails, a cross country running course, a golf practice surface (chipping/putting only), racquetball courts, roller derby, outdoor basketball courts, bocce ball courts, geo cashing, pickleball, and more. It was also suggested that the park include some type of water element, such as a small lake or pond.

The Board members discussed the various methods of engaging the public in the planning process, stating they preferred the "Rocket Park" method, where staff presented the information individually to the numerous user groups, neighborhood, etc. Traci Wieland reviewed the list of user groups staff intends to meet with, and requested additional suggestions from the Board members. The Board also expressed their approval of continuing to utilize the City's website to provide ongoing project updates.

Discussion ensued regarding a theme/mission for the grant application. The Board members suggested numerous topics, including focusing on the linkages with trails, safe access, encouraging families to spend time outside, environmental education opportunities, water flow and erosion biological use (perhaps partnering with the Math and Science Center), canal drainage, fertilizers, and the connection to the Colorado River.

Item 5: Las Colonias Master Plan Update

Due to the time shortage and the poor weather conditions, the Board postponed their tour of the Las Colonias property. Rob Schoeber briefly reported that a subcommittee has been established by City Council to review the master plan for Las Colonias Park. The disc golf group is already working on cleaning up the area they intend to use, and hope to start relocating the holes in the near future. Kannah Creek Brewery has already broke ground for their new establishment along the riverfront property. Rob Schoeber also reported the City is currently in negotiations with Mesa Developmental Services regarding the operations of the Botanical Gardens facility.

Item 6: Project Updates

No new projects were discussed at this time.

Item 7: For the Good of the Community

Traci Wieland passed around a thank you card for the Board members to sign. The card is to acknowledge Lena Elliott for her generous donation of \$1,200 towards the Lincoln Park tennis court renovation project.

Item 8: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist

GOCO Planning Grant Brainstorming – Matchett Park

1. What outdoor recreational amenities and/or services is your community (or neighborhood or area, etc.) lacking that the proposed plan will help you provide? Why is the plan needed?
2. Describe how you intend to engage the general public in the planning process. How many meetings do you intend to hold? What will be done to ensure people attend?
3. What particular user groups do you expect to benefit from the plan? What specific efforts will be taken to ensure those groups engage in the planning process?
4. Public Support/Opposition
 - a. Who is supporting the development of this plan (users, members of the community, project partners) in ways other than cash or in-kind contributions? Include a maximum of 10 support letters from users, user groups, other funders, community members, volunteers, etc.
 - b. Who is opposed to the development of this plan? Are you aware of any future opposition that may impede implementation of this plan? Have neighbors, user groups, or other parties objected? Include any letters, petitions, news articles, or other documents evidencing opposition. What has been done to address the concerns of those opposing?
5. GOCO's mission is "To help the people of Colorado preserve, protect, enhance, appreciate and enjoy our parks, wildlife, trails, rivers and open space through strategic grants, partnerships and leadership." GOCO's 2010 Strategic Plan identifies the following goals related to its mission. Describe the specific ways in which the project addresses these goals:
 - a. Linkages between existing trails, parks, environmental education facilities, schools, and/or other community gathering centers.
 - b. Safe access to planned or existing outdoor recreation amenities.
 - c. Environmental education opportunities.
 - d. Acquiring urban parcels to provide close-to-home parks or other outdoor recreation amenities.
 - e. Encouraging youth and their families to spend time engaging in outdoor recreation.