

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – January 3, 2013

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Tawny Espinoza at 12:06 p.m.

Meeting Location: Parks and Recreation Administration Office

Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Kristy Emerson
Marc Litzen

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

Guest: Ken Walter, Ice Skating Inc.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Scott Coleman moved to approve the December 6, 2012 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dave McIlnay seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Motion adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 5 No 0

Item 3: Lincoln Park Update

Traci Wieland provided an update on the Lincoln Park renovations (See attached). Staff is scheduled to meet with the National Pickleball Association in February in hopes of rallying their support and possible contributions of benches and/or landscaping. Staff is currently having discussions with the American Daughters of Revolution regarding the relocation of the flag pole. In addition, staff has met with the horseshoe players group and is currently discussing the option of relocating the horseshoe pits to the northeast corner at Canyon View Park. The group expressed they are very happy with this option and Parks staff does not foresee the location interfering with the current park activities. The Board suggested a split rail fence be installed on the south side of the horseshoe pits for safety purposes. It was also suggested the Recreation Division consider purchasing horseshoe equipment for the public to rent.

Item 4: TABOR Update

Rob Schoeber discussed the feedback from the public TABOR meeting held last month (See attached). If the excess funding were to be approved, the monies would go towards addressing the proposed projects. Among the comments, there were approximately 50 positive remarks directly related to the development of Matchett and Las Colonias Parks. In addition, there were approximately 30 comments requesting a recreation center, which wasn't one of the projects listed for input. Discussion ensued regarding how the City would prioritize the projects if approved. The Board also suggested future public questions be more straight forward/specific, expressing the TABOR questions appeared to be very general. Rob Schoeber said staff will have more direction next week after City Council meets for their retreat.

Item 5: Project Updates

Traci Wieland reported staff is moving forward with master planning the Las Colonias project. The steering committee met in December and included representation from the Lion's Club, Western Slope Botanical Gardens, and the Riverfront Commission. This committee has been tasked with updating the 2007 Las Colonias master plan.

Additional projects were discussed (See attached), which included the ADA renovations taking place at both Lincoln Park and Orchard Mesa swimming pools, and the dramatic landscaping change that was completed at the Botanical Gardens. Board members were encouraged to stop by the gardens and view the improvements.

Item 6: For the Good of the Community

Rob Schoeber notified the Board members they will soon be receiving an invitation to an open house in honor of Eddie Mort who recently received the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Professional of the Year award. The event is an opportunity to recognize Eddie and his staff for their hard work and dedication to the new stadium facility.

Rob Schoeber shared a voicemail he received regarding the holiday decorations along Main Street. The man who left the message was extremely happy with the lights, stating he has lived in Grand Junction for 55 years and has never seen it looking so good. This same man had called the year before and complained about the holiday lights. The DDA had chosen to contract the work to someone else in 2011 and, after receiving numerous complaints, decided to purchase new lights and requested for the City to take over the decorations again. Rob Schoeber stated the Forestry staff began installing lights the first of November and commended his staff for putting so much pride and effort into downtown's decorations.

Ken Waters introduced himself and briefly gave a background on Ice skating, Inc. The 501c3 organization was established in 1994 and was charged with bringing an ice rink to the community. Once the Glacier Ice Rink was built, the role of the organization changed to actually running the facility and programs. The organization is once again pursuing an ice rink, as the local hockey teams are now having to travel all over the state to play, due to Grand Junction no longer having a facility to host competitive league games. Mr. Walters discussed the challenges his organization has been facing, stating they continually struggle for funding. He said his intentions are to periodically attend the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings to gain an understanding of the processes, and stated he hopes to get the City involved with the ice rink down the road. Ken Walters also said there is a potential buyer interested in the ice rink and, if all goes well, it should be open and running by next winter.

Item 7: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist

Las Colonias 2012 Steering Committee Amenity Priorities

High

Parking – West
Disc Golf
Dog Park
Restroom Facilities – West
Amphitheatre

Medium

Additional Trails
Developed Vendor Area
Open Turf Area – Passive
Controlled Water Slue

Low

Kayak Park
Parking – East
Picnic Shelters – West
Beach Area
Boardwalk
Lighted Trails
Picnic Shelters – Large Group
Restroom Facilities – East

Other Amenities Rated But Not Ranked High/Medium/Low

Playground
Educational Native Arboretum
Picnic Shelters – East
Picnic Shelters – Small Group
Sport Courts - Basketball, Volleyball, Etc.
Sport Fields - Soccer, Football, Etc.
Other - Revegetation w/Native Elements
Other - Large Open Festival Area
Safety Fencing During Run Off
Civic Center/Recreation Center

Comments

- Important that new vegetation doesn't create "campsites".
- Native grasses closer to river, but landscape for amphitheatre, picnic, and park areas.
- Plant trees for shade.
- Area can't be all bluegrass.
- Improve condition of Watson Island to tie in with disc golf and new park complex. This would be a nice compliment and support of the new brewery.
- More public will use the park. Start the increase in usage on the west end near Watson Island and Botanical Gardens.
- Parking access is important for individual use and large amphitheatre events.
- Dog parks always bring people.
- Water feature could be the "creek" with water flow that kids can play in or a water park/kayak park in the river.
- Need larger amphitheatre in central GJ that will accommodate large event (4000-5000 people).
- Compliment to downtown - help keep/bring visitors and users to the great downtown area.
- Other park/civic development and development of Kannah Creek and the Botanical Gardens together with the other efforts will likely increase the desire of developers to begin projects.

Steering Committee – Lions Club, Botanical Gardens, Riverfront Commission, Tamarisk Coalition, DDA, Disc Golf Club, and City staff

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – January 3, 2013 Project Update

Lincoln Park Renovation

- New playground equipment installation will begin as soon as weather allows hopefully being completed the end of February.
- Construction of new concrete trails within the park will begin mid-January.
- The arboretum signage and hard copy maps are set to be completed by February.
- The tennis/pickleball complex designs have been finalized, so a formal grant request has been submitted to the United States Tennis Association for a \$50,000 grant. If the request includes all the information the USTA requires, a decision should be made within 60 days.
- A meeting with the pickleball players will take place in January to update them on the design and rally their hopeful financial support.
- The old parks maintenance shop is being redesigned (again) to modify the location of golf maintenance modular and include more parking.
- A meeting with the Daughters of the American Revolution representatives is scheduled for January 10 regarding location of the flagpole.
- The Lincoln Park horseshoe complex will be relocated to the northeast corner of Canyon View Park (I-70 and 24 ½ Road).
- Meetings are scheduled in January with Streets, Traffic, Parks, and Engineering to discuss the new parking and the 12th Street crosswalk.

Las Colonias

- A steering committee meeting was held on December 11 to provide survey results (see attached).
- A group of City employees has been convened to manage the master plan revision process with the first meeting having been held January 3, 2013.
- A meeting with the Trust for Public Lands will occur in late January to discuss possible land acquisition in relation to the master plan revision.

Matchett Park

- Planning grant applications are available and are due March 6, 2013.
- The Matchett Park project has been discussed with GOCO staff, and has been given the okay to apply. A webinar will be held in January to provide tips for this grant writing process.

CIP Projects

- Due to the complicated nature of the OM Pool and LP Pool lockerroom renovations, an architect will be hired to complete design work. The ADA audit and design recommendations completed by an outside consultant will be available by January 4. Renovations at LP Pool will hopefully occur before summer opening but may have to be delayed until after the summer season based on the architect's designs. The OM Pool projects will take place in the fall.
- Pomona Elementary and Washington Park playground RFP is currently being reviewed by Purchasing and will hopefully be publicized mid-January.
- A contract has been signed with Western Heritage Consulting & Engineering for construction plans for five different park irrigation system repair/replacement projects.

Other Projects

- Botanical Gardens landscaping (City Property in front of the Gardens entrance at the corner of Struthers and 7th Street) is complete.

Final Report - December 21, 2012

Total surveys complete: 1,766. Numbers below do not match this figure because many respondents chose to only respond to portions of the survey. All responses were recorded.

1. Would you be in support of the City continuing to use the current means of financing the Riverside Parkway, with no tax increase, for construction of local improvement projects?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	1,248	81%
No	286	19%
Total	1,534	100%

2. If the City were to receive voter permission to use TABOR revenues with no tax increase for construction of local improvement projects, which of the following would you prefer? Please select only one.

Answer	Response	%
Completion of "The Beltway" (taking 29 Road all the way to I-70 with a new interchange), or improvements to North Avenue or Horizon Drive	888	57%
Development of new park properties such as Matchett or Las Colonias	205	13%
Construction of additional fire stations in growing areas of the community	310	20%
Other (please specify)	150	10%
Total	1,553	100%