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# Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

## HOSPITALITY SUITE ~ Lincoln Park Tower

**February 1, 2024**
**12:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

**Approval of Minutes**

Approve Minutes from January Meeting

**Regular Agenda Topics**

Park Rules Update

JUCO Vendor Selecton - PRAB Representative

Friday, March 8 - 9am at the Parks and Recreation Admin Office

Emerson Skate Park Construction Update

Tennis and Pickleball Expansion Construction Update

Whitman Park Design Update

**For the Good of the Community**

**Future Agenda Topics**

**Adjournment**

**Next Meeting Date**

March 7, 2024

# Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
# Regular Meeting – January 4, 2024

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| Meeting Location: | Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium |

**Roll Call**

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| Board Members Present: | William Findlay<br>Kyle Gardner<br>Lilly Grisafi<br>Gary Schroen<br>Nancy Strippel<br>Lisa Whalin<br>Byron Wiehe |
| Board Members Absent: | Cindy Enos-Martinez<br>Austin Solko |
| City Staff Present: | Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation<br>Allison Little, Administrative Specialist |
| Guests Present: | Haley Van Camp, Arts and Culture Coordinator |

**Meeting called to order by Lisa Whalin at 12:00 p.m.**
Gary Schroen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Kyle Gardner and approved unanimously.

Motion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0
(some folks arrived after the vote on the minutes)

**CRC Outdoor Spaces**
Ken shared with the board that staff are beginning to look at the outdoor spaces in Matchett Park surrounding the future Community Recreation Center (CRC). The PROS plan identifies field space as a need in the community and park and the Matchett Master Plan calls for construction of outdoor field space in the majority of the park.

The design of the CRC building is is evolving due to shallow bedrock on the site, so the building is shifting from the location where it was initially planned. The new location does situate the CRC right next to field space which creates a nice synergy.

FCI has estimated about $2.6M for outdoor improvements. The project has $680,000 from the Burkey land sale pledged to pavilion, $100,000 for a playground held by PIAB, and staff are pursuing grants from a number of foundations, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Daniels Fund would be the largest. The GOCO concept paper is due on January 25, 2024.

Board members wondered how staff project the future use of fields. Ken Sherbenou advised the board that demographers project growth for Grand Junction, and outdoor field space has already been identified as a gap in the community. The reason to build this now is to save on mobilization costs, and to reduce the need for construction in the park after the CRC is complete.

There is some concern that we are building facilities (fields) without adding parking. Board members wondered if there were opportunities for informal parking similar to the gravel lot at Canyon View or as appear behind some of the Little League facilities.

Acknowledging that parking is a concern and that staff expects the CRC and eventual field space to be highly utilized, Ken Sherbenou advised the board that staff may be able to identify an informal gravel parking lot that could be graded during the formal design process. The planned CRC parking is going to be further away from the fields compared to the proximity and convenience that folks might be used to at Canyon View. Staff are also working with transportation engineers to talk about a potential bus stop, and safe bike routes to help folks use multiple modes of transportation. Board members shared concerns about overflow parking impacting the neighborhood to the west. Staff are working to ensure that overflow impacts on the neighborhood are low. The board also advocated for plenty of accessible parking and wheelchair accessible routes to the fields.

Bill Findlay made a motion that PRAB support the application to GOCO for funding for outdoor elements of the Matchett Park Plan. The motion was seconded by Byron and carried unanimously.

Motion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 7 No 0

**2024 Budget**

Ken Sherbenou shared a 2024 budget presentation with the board. Excluding capital expenditures, the Parks and Recreation department budget totals $14.2 million for 2024. The largest expense category is Labor at $8.6 million for 74 full time employees and around 250 seasonal staff, followed by operating expenses at $3.2 million and then internal support services (fleet, IT, etc) at $2.4million.

Department highlights include increasing the funding for the Japanese beetle treatment to cover the entire parks system as well as the turf at both city-owned golf courses. Staff are working to continue to grow recreation program and facility participation. 2023 participation was up by more than 13,500 and does not include drop-in usage in parks, on trails, or at the river park, for example.

In addition to the operating budget, Parks and Recreation is planning on a number of capital improvement projects including, $3million for construction of the Emerson Park destination skate park (set to begin in February). Other park projects include, $150,000 for master planning Whitman Park

improvements, and $340,000 for improvements at Hawthorne Park. Trail projects include, $1.67million for Phase II of the Monument Connect trail, $275,000 for Riverfront Trail widening near Broadway, and $400,000 for asphalt trail replacements (such as the Las Colonias bridge to Eagle Rim park). Other projects include $225,000 in Stadium improvements, $100,000 for playground repair (system wide), $80,000 for cemetery burial equipment, $22,000 for fireproof containers, and $100,000 for park maintenance software. There is $125,000 earmarked for water conservation efforts. In the past that money has funded the conversion of downtown fountains to planters. Staff are continuing to work on these conversions and are looking at ways to convert turf (such as Lilac park) to native, more water-wise, plantings. All of these projects are, of course, in addition to the design and construction of the Community Recreation Center which is happening now and will continue into 2025.

**Trash Cans in Parks**

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the decision to move away from the plastic trash cans spread throughout parks. These trash cans blow over easily in wind, are easy for animals to manipulate to retrieve trash, and tend to make extra work for staff. Parks and Recreation is moving towards an industry standard of permanently placed metal trash cans on concrete pads. This results in a decrease of the total number of cans in parks.

Board members appreciated the move and also asked staff to be mindful of placing trash cans where people eat separately from trash cans where people dispose of dog poop. Last summer the trash can at the Confluence shelter in Las Colonias would just smell of heated up dog poop all the time and it made the shelter unpleasant to utilize.

**Adjourn**
Lisa Whalin adjourned the meeting at 1:21pm.

**Next Meeting**
The next regular meeting will be February 1, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist