



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

HOSPITALITY SUITE ~ Lincoln Park Tower

March 7, 2024

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes from February 1, Regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Approve Minutes from February 13, Special Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Regular Agenda Topics

Hawthorn Park Improvements

Tennis and Pickleball Expansion Project

Whitman Park Design

PRAB Member Applications Open

For the Good of the Community

Future Agenda Topics

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

April 4, 2024

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – February 1, 2024

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kyle Gardner
Lilly Grisafi
Gary Schroen
Austin Solko
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin

Board Members Absent: William Findlay
Cindy Enos-Martinez
Byron Wiehe

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Guests Present: Sam Klomhaus, Daily Sentinel
Jeff Hinkle, KKCO/KJCT8

Meeting called to order by Lisa Whalin at 12:00 p.m.

Lilly Grisafi made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2024 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and approved unanimously.

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

Park Rules Update

Ken talked with the board about the rules update. This version of the proposal takes into account the public meeting feedback, as well as engagement gathered online. These rules signs are located at all our park facilities, and will apply at the 35 developed park facilities.

Rules are evaluated on a regular basis. Recent changes have been made to adopt changes in liquor laws, and to adjust parks to include winter hours. For this revision, staff have been gathering information from other agencies around the state. Based on that information gathered it appears that Grand Junction is behind with updates that are fairly standard across other organizations state-wide.

Ken reviewed the current rules with board members. The visual look of the sign on this rule board is fairly bland. There are no visuals and the rules are very text heavy. The current rules are generally represented in the updated sign. Board members wondered what the attendance was at the public meeting. Ken reported that the meeting notice was sent out via press release and to the 20,000 emails in the Parks and Recreation database and the meeting was attended by 15 people. There has been good engagement, including comments, online.

The draft proposal includes park hours listed at the top, followed by allowed activities. During the public meeting there was a desire for increased enforcement of off-leash pets in the parks which is provided by Mesa County Animal Control. Their number is on the sign and Board members suggested having the QR code go directly to the dog park webpage versus to the general City landing page. Board members wondered if using a bullet strategy rather than full sentences next to each of the sections could help make the sign more readable as well as the addition some kind of delineation setting off the text of each section.

The next section is activities which are allowed by permit (preauthorized commercial sales, structures such as bounce houses, and enclosures). Board members wondered how this would impact users of the River Park who often bring shade structures, by the river or family volleyball/badminton games which drop in to the park and use stakes setting up their nets. Board members suggested that the second bullet could be reworded to say enclosed structures (tents, booths, amusement devices, etc) require a permit to be constructed, erected, installed, attached or staked in any park facility.

Ken Sherbenou advised the board that staff will be installing slack line posts in the southwest corner of Lincoln Park. Posts will be set up in a fashion that encourages use of different lengths (ability level) and is in a desirable, though less busy, section of the park. Board members suggested making sure the designated area is easy to find. Board members also specifically suggested calling out trees as not allowed for slack line use.

The section listing activities prohibited by the rules calls out glass containers, fires (outside of city provided grills), smoking/vaping, overnight camping, littering, dumping, golfing, possessing stolen property, and digging (as associated with metal detectors). Items left unattended in the park are considered abandoned. Board members suggested putting the non-emergency dispatch number so that the on-call parks number isn't inundated with enforcement calls.

Due to the number of suggested revisions. The board decided to hold a special meeting to go over revisions before making a recommendation on forwarding this to City Council.

JUCO Vendor Selection – PRAB Representative

Emily Krause talked with the Board about the vendor selection process for JUCO. Every year PRAB provides a representative to the selection committee which will meet on March 8 at 9am in the Parks and Recreation Administration Office. Lilly Grisafi will represent the board at the meeting.

Emerson Skate Park Construction Update

Ken talked with the board about the plans for the Emerson Skate Park. Some changes have been made to seat walls, to make them nearer the recreational features, as well as provide the skate amenities some protection from the traffic. City crews have already moved about 15 smaller trees. After the construction fencing goes up, crews may do some trimming and raising to ensure the overall health of the trees. This design has come from a lot of skate community input and Team Pain has worked closely with the skate community to incorporate ideas and make sure it complements (without duplicating) other skate parks in the community. Originally this idea came out of the public engagement during the PROS plan process. Board members wondered where the closest public parking is located. Ken shared that in addition to the parking in the design there is on street parking on 10th street north of Ute. Emily Krause advised the board that skate park users in general tend to skate to their destination.

Due to the length of the park rules sign update discussion the other agenda items were tabled until the March meeting.

Adjourn

Lisa Whalin adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be March 7, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Special Meeting – February 13, 2024

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cindy Enos-Martinez
Kyle Gardner
Lilly Grisafi
Gary Schroen
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin

Board Members Absent: William Findlay
Austin Solko
Byron Wiehe

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Guests Present: Sam Klomhaus, Daily Sentinel

Meeting called to order by Lisa Whalin at 12:06 p.m.

Lisa called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for making time on an unusual day with shorter notice.

Park Rules Update

Ken Sherbenou thanked the board for coming together for a special meeting and appreciated the discussion at the last meeting. It informed many of the updates for this version of the proposal.

Ken reminded the board that many other communities in Colorado were consulted. The rules are going to be posted on the existing arched sign. The logo and park name will remain directly under the arch with the new rules posted below.

At the top of the sign are park hours. Underneath the sign lays out allowed activities. Ken reminded the board that some of the discussion centered around use of true bullets versus full sentences. After other considerations, full sentences have been used so that the sign is consistent as some items could not be reduced to bullet length. As recommended, a URL has been inserted which will take folks directly to the Dog Park page of the City website. Board members shared their experiences with calling Animal Control for off-leash enforcement noting that the response time has been long enough that people move on before Animal Control arrives. Ken advised the board that the 2024 budget does allow for Police Department Park Rangers who have the responsibility to identify these problem areas and enforce rules. Currently parks staff are primarily responsible for maintenance and operation and are not involved with enforcement.

In the section of the sign outlining activities allowed by permit only, Ken shared with the board that allowed activities have been modified to include nets/goals and open sided shade structures. Other Colorado communities who shared their language with staff outlaw structures and enclosures including Denver, Arvada, Pueblo, Boulder, Brighton, Castle Rock, Broomfield, Longmont, Fort Collins. The proposed language most closely resembles the language used in Denver, though staff have made revisions to the wording and chosen to allow recreational equipment as well as shade structures which are not enclosed.

The last two rules emphasize that slack lines are only to be installed in specific locations, and bounce houses also require a permit. There is no extra fee involved, but it does need to be noted on the shelter reservation.

Ken Sherbenou talked with the Board about the section of the sign outlining prohibited park activities. Many of these prohibitions already exist and are not changes to the existing code. The language goes along with the symbols.

Board members wondered where the QR code links. Ken reminded the board that the first step is to approve the sign then, staff will build the website to make sure it addresses all of the applicable rules before the sign is posted.

Staff plan to bring this to City Council for consideration on February 21. If approved, sign installation would commence in the spring. Board members wondered about the dimension of the sign. The sign will be approximately 3.5 feet wide, and a proportionate length.

Gary Schroen made a motion that PRAB approve the updated park rules and sign and forward the recommendation for adoption to City Council. The motion was seconded by Cindy Enos-Martinez and carried unanimously.

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

Adjourn

Lisa Whalin adjourned the meeting at 12:49 pm.

Next Meeting

CRC Committee Meeting on February 22

Regular PRAB meeting on March 7

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist