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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

HOSPITALITY SUITE ~ Lincoln Park Tower

June 6, 2024

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes from Regular May Meeting

Approve Minutes from Special Meeting

Regular Agenda Topics

Whitman Park Design Brief Update

Hawthorne Park Improvements (potential action)

Community Rereation Center Outdoor Facilities Phase (potential action)

For the Good of the Community

Future Agenda Topics

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

Moved to July 2, 2024 - 12pm in the Hospitality Suite

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – May 2, 2024

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Stadium

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cindy Enos-Martinez
William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Lilly Grisafi
Abe Herman
Gary Schroen
Austin Solko
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent:

Guests Present: Carol Ward

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

Matchett Road Naming

Board members discussed potential names to recommend for two streets that will be needed to access the park. Street names must be unique (not already in use in Grand Junction).

Board members suggestions include:

Matchett Place (or Drive)

GJ Plays Dr.

Recreation Way

Fitness Street

Community Blvd.

Legacy (already in use at Cemetery)

Inspiration

Cindy Enos Martinez made a motion that Matchett Parkway (if allowed) be the road that enters the park and Recreation Drive be the ‘wiggly’ road inside the Park. The motion was seconded by Austin Solko and carried unanimously.

Motion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 10 No 0

Community Recreation Center Groundbreaking Ceremony

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Community Recreation Center (CRC) has been scheduled for Saturday, June 1 in Matchett Park. This will be an all-day celebration with a Disc Golf Tournament and 5K fun run kicking off at 8:30 and a 10am official groundbreaking ceremony. After the ceremony we will 'open' the doors to the CRC. The building perimeter and certain hallways will be marked off. There will be QR codes posted so that attendees can use their phones for a 360 view of the area. There will be activities hosted throughout the building space.

Lunch (sponsored) in Community Rooms

Child Watch– face paint/balloon animals

Pools – Intermountain Health St. Mary's activities

Gym – bump and jumps

The event is being planned with a festival feel to help people understand the size and magnitude of the building.

Hawthorne Park Survey

In an effort to increase engagement for Hawthorne Park improvements, staff went through the process of investigating a bike pump track which was not approved by Council. A survey has been sent to all the houses in a half mile of Hawthorne Park inviting their feedback and attendance at a public meeting on 5/30 at 5pm.

Staff are hoping to generate engagement for improvements at Hawthorne Park. The current playground was built in 1998 (typical life span is 20 – 25 years). If people choose playground as an improvement option on the survey they are presented additional questions to gather more information about what kind of amenities folks would like to see in a future playground.

Main street Improvements

Ken Sherbenou shared with the board that staff are working with the DDA discussing improvements to the 500 block. In the interest of time further discussion on this item was tabled and more information will be shared at the next meeting.

For the Good of the Community

Board members wondered about Desert Vista Park. It appears folks have moved people from Whitman to Emerson to Desert Vista. Ken Sherbenou shared that it is a fluid situation. Parks and Recreation has placed porta potties in the park and is regularly collecting trash. On Wednesdays the park is closed so that essential maintenance (such as irrigation and mowing) can be performed. Staff are working with PD to make sure this can be accomplished.

Future Agenda Items

Board members suggested that after the recent fire mitigation along the Riverfront Trail it is much more open and wonder how the City is going to activate those spaces.

Board members also wondered about the status of Phase 2 of the Monument Connect trail. This phase is still scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The meetings of the Parks and Recreation Advisory board are as follows:

5/14 – Special Whitman Park Meeting

6/6 – Regular PRAB Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – May 14, 2024

Meeting Location: Fire Dept Training Room.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay
Lilly Grisafi
Gary Schroen
Nancy Strippel
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez
Kyle Gardner
Abe Herman
Austin Solko

Guests Present Greg White – DTJ
James Palmer - DTJ

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

Whitman Park Design Concepts

Staff from DTJ Designs talked with the Board about the process for gathering feedback about amenities desired at Whitman Park. The engagement from the community was very high, the largest they have had on any of their projects. There were 940 respondents to the survey including 300 pages of data in response to the open-ended questions. Most respondents live and work in Grand Junction and visit downtown once per week. Safety and lighting were top priorities, food and beverage options were supported. At the time of the survey, renaming was not supported (about 75% said no). The top ten improvements were: lighting, pollinator garden, food trucks/carts or a food stand, shade canopies, multi-use event stage, seating, holiday gathering/lights, synthetic seasonal ice rink, recreational/bouldering space, and iconic public art.

People provided input on what measures help provide a safe park as well as what cultural considerations should be included in future park design. From all of this feedback, DTJ has created three concepts. The first honors the original including the x-shaped sidewalks converging on the center of the park. The second honors the geology and unique features of the area (Bookcliffs, Grand Mesa, Colorado National Monument, and rivers) and the third honors the downtown legacy and seeks to expand the feel of downtown to the park. All of the designs generally include the same top ten amenities in different configurations.

In general, Board members most appreciated the third concept noting that the historical option has old patterns associated with it and the geology concept has been done a number of places. Board members like the idea of the synthetic ice rink and the fire pit, as well as the dog park. There really is nothing like that downtown.

The consultants will continue to gather input incorporating feedback given by Council and at the public meeting this evening to create one design that includes the best parts of the three concepts.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Little
Administrative Specialist