

PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES #7, 2007
MONDAY May 21st, 2007
RIFLE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Ed Weiss at 5:28 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT, ROLL CALL:

ACT VOTER:	YES	NO
Kelly Bina		x
Jim Boone		x
Rich Carter	x	
Steve Carter	x	
Mark Lapka		x
Jason Naess	x	
Ed Weiss	x	
Mildred Whitt	x	

Staff Present: Tom Whitmore, Aleks Briedis, Stephanie Samson

Minutes of April 23rd Meeting: Jason motioned to accept minutes of April 23rd. Steve second. Passed by voice vote.

Comments from Public: No public present

Senior Center Report: Becky Stone called about Eagle Scout project, which has started. Staff received a purchase order for flooring. We hope to start the project soon.

Strategic Plan Update: Staff has comments in, and will be working on action steps.

Roan Field Update: Working on getting a solid cost from ACC before going to Council. Hope to go to Council at their June 6th meeting. Hope to start construction in August.

GOCO Grant Update: We will find out after June 21st if we are asked to fill out a full application for the Legacy Grand.

Action Park Update: Staff is installing irrigation system. We're waiting for equipment to come in for lights. Rich mentioned he saw an event happening this past weekend. Staff

informed PRAB that we had a special event in conjunction with the Rifle Rendezvous. We held a skate and bike competition and had 34 participants.

Maintenance Facility Update: Looked at the site and had a bunch of questions about the site. We're responding about bids from firms and will have by 29th. Do not expect to be finished until 2008. Mid July is the deadline for DOLA to re-request funds again. We will look at the proposals and make a choice according to the projected budget. We are hoping to get as much space and storage into this building as possible, so we don't have to store things outside. Some of the Recreation equipment will also be stored there as well. It will be built just north of the irrigation pond in Deerfield Park in Rifle. There are all kinds of possibilities for different sites for the facility, but nothing looks like it will work for the time frame that we are looking at.

"Over the Rainbow" Update: It is in the future Centennial Park area near Rifle Creek and 5th Street. We are going to assume the statue will be there for a while, but it does have the possibility of being moved if the Centennial Park build out plans for it.

Ride the Rockies: Everything is moving forward. Council approved minors to be able to be in the beer garden, but not drink beer. The Lion's Club and Boy Scouts will be serving breakfast. The Elks will be serving lunch. The Rifle Rotary will be serving dinner. We have already made up volunteer shirts and buttons. Staff asked PRAB members to volunteer for a couple hours helping out by answering questions.

Participant Numbers: Staff presented the report of participant numbers over the past few years. The registration software will only give us the number once the activity has completely closed for the season and therefore we did not have some 2007 numbers. The numbers are staying pretty stable; they are not jumping around too much. Some activities go up and some go down, but nothing dramatic, except for the Senior activities, since they have almost doubled. Aleks says that this is probably because of the purchase of the used Traveler.

Bond in 2008 Election?: The possibility of approaching the voters for a bond in the 2008 general election was discussed by City Council. Aleks informed the board and asked them to start thinking about the possibility. This is a "finish everything we have started" act. Rich Carter thinks it is a great idea to finish those projects we have started and make it nicer. Rich said it would be great to actually finish all these jobs completely and make this place wonderful, instead of just occasionally piecing things together. Let's do it! Ed says it is a tough one because it would be the third year in a row we have gone to the voters.

Fee Waiving Discussion: Steve has brainstormed and come up with a proposal. Steve: The dollars we have come up with are not irrational. This is not a small town anymore, and there are a lot of things that will have to change. When a facility is reserved by a specific group, you are restricting the public from using that facility. There is a benefit to be had for the kids that play sports. Newly organized sports teams should get an additional discount as start up teams need to fund equipment. If a team can't afford the

discounted rate, it is proposed that they would be able to do community service like planting trees in the curb sides at Deerfield Park in the parking lot.

Aleks: Do we go for all the costs, soft and hard costs for the discount?

Steve: Everything. People will only be charged the full 100% only if they are older than 25 years of age. This would be for outside leagues only.

What are the teams out of Grand Junction using our facilities?

Tom: I don't think we would discount for teams outside of our town.

Ed: City Council has charged us with coming up with this, and it will be an issue. I want it to be as black and white as possible. The gray areas just make things difficult and put us in a tough spot.

Tom: We have to have a minimum charge for these activities. We would have to quantify in some way to equal out. Canyon View doesn't get a lot of use because it is so expensive to use. They just want to keep it nice and not have things vandalized, but then again you don't see people using it.

The community is growing and we need to be more professional. We need to charge usage fees. Rich thinks the discounts are too high, but thinks it is a good start. Jason and Mildred also think it is a great idea and a good start to get things rolling. The only downside Ed sees with this is finding a new team each year. Give discount only first and maybe second year, but then after that go to original price. They would still need to come in and apply for the discount and explain why they qualify for one.

Staff and PRAB members will review this particular subject and bring up additional questions and concerns at the next meeting.

Tom mentioned that we have new goals on order that will be very difficult to remove, but can be removed if necessary by the maintenance staff. These will be permanently anchored goals.

Next Meeting – June 11th

Other: We were not selected for the NRPA Gold Medal award. They told us we should apply again next year. The pool will be opening this Saturday, May 26. We are looking into expanding the fence, and are currently receiving cost estimates.

Adjourned by Ed Weiss at 6:58 PM.