

**PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES #9, 2007
MONDAY JULY 9, 2007
RIFLE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Ed Weiss at 5:31 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	

Public Present: Clint Bartels-President Colorado River Valley Little League; James Ray-Manager Colorado River Valley Little League; Scott Schilt-Vice President Colorado River Valley Little League

Staff Present: Tom Whitmore, Aleks Briedis, Stephanie Samson

Minutes of June 11th Meeting: A few mistakes were noted in the minutes: Tom will start repairing the tennis courts soon, instead of building more tennis courts. Jason was not at the June 11th meeting.

Kelly motioned to accept the May 21st minutes with changes. Steve seconded the approval of the minutes with changes. Passed by voice vote.

Comments from Public: Bartels said that the Little League (LL) had the opportunity to host a tournament in Rifle but the opportunity was lost because Rifle charges LL fees to use the facilities. Due to this, Bartels stated that the City lost \$1.5 million. The City shouldn't be charging fees for the use of a facility for the LL because they pay taxes. Steve asked if LL received a letter stating that the tournament was not held in Rifle due to the facility fees. Bartels stated that this was written in the LL by-laws. Steve once again asked if they received a specific letter. Bartels once again stated that it was written in the

LL by-laws. Jim Boone inquired how many teams would come to the tournament if held here. Bartels said there would be 16 teams. Little League is a big thing for the kids. It is very professional. A national anthem is played before the game. The total fees for the last season were \$1600 for the use of the fields. Bartels said that they spent all 3 teams' money on usage fees, and one of the teams didn't even use this facility. Bartels stated that all other Little League teams in the valley are not charged a fee for use of facilities. Staff noted that Grand Mesa field is a 100% Grand Mesa Little League facility and City of Grand Junction does not maintain these fields.

Bartels noted that LL does not like when all the tournaments are in one area many years in a row. They appreciate when the tournaments move around the area so there is community involvement. Glenwood was going to host a tournament because they waive their fees, but the tournament wouldn't work because they only had one field that was the appropriate size for the kids to play ball. The older group has a maximum fence length of 200 feet and our field qualifies for that distance. Bartels would love to get a softball league going and he is working with Cindy Skinner to get that rolling. Fruita little League has donated equipment to LL to use for a future softball team. Steve Carter pointed out that our fields are maintained by the City of Rifle and the tax payers, whereas the Grand Junction fields are not. Bartels stated that Glenwood, Cortez, Montrose, Fruita, Palisade, and Orchard Valley completely waives their fees for the use of the fields and at most charge \$1 per year lease.

Steve stated that the City Council has said that the community must charge for the use of the fields. Baseball, more than any other sport is expensive due to maintaining the field, including the lights. It is not fair for us to charge everybody, except Little League. And we cannot have teams use the fields for free because that is against what the City Council told us to do.

Ed appreciates that the Little League board came in to comment on this issue and the board will take it under advisement. Ed requested names and numbers of other Little League organizations in the area that we can contact. Jim Boone says that it is important that we understand LL's point of view. Ed advised that we do a little research. Bartels will get together a list of Little League organizations we can contact for insight. Bartels stated that Little League charges \$800 in insurance for three teams for the kids to play. The cost per player would go down if we had more teams in the league.

Steve made a motion for staff to contact Fruita, Delta, GWS, Grand Junction, Montrose, Cortez, WECMRD and Palisade to inquire about fees charged to Little League teams for use of their facilities. Weiss said that the meaning of the motion is to research the fairness level and to see if we are the only ones who charge for these fields. Mark seconds the motion. The motion passes by voice vote.

Senior Center Report: Flowerpots have been completed, but no one has seen them yet.

Fee Waiving Discussion: Everything the board discussed was put into one document. Board members have been asked to review fees. Kids get a discount, but adults have to

pay full price. Ed Weiss stated that there is a lot of latitude between the 1st, 2nd and established teams and the discounts given. The decisions should be made at a PRAB level or a staff level so that every issue is not brought to the City Council. Should we put together a one time use fee instead of having the Parks and Recreation directors discussing this every time? Mark requested that majority of the participating athletes was explained by adding 51%. The board should be smart enough to notice if a team is truly a first year team. Lights and preparation would not be a part of the discount prices. Regular fees do not cover expenses. Kelly moves that we table this discussion to a later date and Jim seconds the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Fee Waiver Request – Muddy Paws: Muddy Paws have already started using it, actually 25 times. Muddy Paws is a dog training organization and they clean up after every use. They are looking for discounts on everything. Aleks says that we should let them use it for free because they clean up and actually help us more. Steve Carter moves to motion to approve the fee waiving request for Muddy Paws and Kelly seconds. The motion passed by voice vote.

Strategic Plan Update: No update because staff has not had time to update the plan further.

Roan Field Update: Aleks just mailed out contract to be signed. Plan to start August 6 and hope to finish September 22. The contract states that the field would be completed buy November 30, but the firm says they can finish the field by September 22. Staff will be ordering lights for the field and scoreboard.

GOCO Grant Update: Aleks received notification that we were asked to fill out a complete application for the legacy grant. The legacy grant was divided into three pots—legacy, open space and regional recreational facilities. We were put into the regional recreational facilities which are capped at \$750,000. This is about \$4 million short of our original request. Staff has decided to pull the project in and just focus on Centennial Park. This portion is estimated at \$6 million. Design Concepts, the firm that put together the master plan, is currently updating the budget figures. Currently staff is expecting to receive \$500,000 from DoLA, \$750,000 from GOCO and \$2 million from the P&R fund. The portion that can be completed with the \$3.25 million will be considered Phase 1, with Phase 2 being funded and completed in the future. Staff presented this to City Council and they directed staff to continue to pursue this project. Staff will continue looking for additional funds and will apply to the Gates Foundation for another \$500,000.

Action Park Update: The sod has been laid and looks great. The Parks Department finished the job in one day. We need to budget to something next year with the steep edges and maybe some trees for the area. Need to check with Police Department with the trees and picnic tables in area. Lights are hooked up, but Xcel stated that the new electrical components are more of a remodel than a repair and therefore the main power line from the transformer will have to be replaced. Waiting for electrician to power up lights and repair those that don't work. The lights will be on a timer. Staff wants to get parking lot paved and install new fencing around the concession stand in Metro Park.

Staff plans on installing a 6 foot chain linked fence with green vinyl. Staff also mentioned that the irrigation near the BMX area is helping to keep down the dust. It's great to have people come in and put some work into it to make it better. Steve said that he is amazed by the wide variety of kids who use the facility

Maintenance Facility Update: Gave architectural group the nod for the layout. We will give presentation to Council soon. Have application due August 1st to DOLA. We hope to be finished with design by June 18th and have it ready for the board for next meeting.

Beautification – Flower Planters: Tom is looking at something that would be watered by existing irrigation, so we don't have to make a new landscape plan. The Lodging tax, if passed could be used for beautification for the downtown area. Tom would like to have some sort of beautification flowerpots around the area without spending a fortune. Tom wants to call Centennial Gardens and collect information and prices of planters where you fertilize the planter once a week and have about 10 or 20 planters at the edge of Heinze Park. Get the planters established in a greenhouse and then plant in parks. If there are no where else to put plants, we could put plants around the sign to add a something more; this is a plan for next year. We have to watch to see if the Lodging tax passes and if so we can plant permanent flowers.

REDC Dinner Review: Staff wants to thank everybody who made the dinner. Rich Carter and Mark Lapka said that they are a little ambitious with two years. Staff stated that if funding is in place, the facility could be open in 2 years. The site for the facility is not yet set. REDC is already talking to a couple firms for the feasibility study. The Health & Wellness Center is more comprehensive than a Recreation Center.

Next Meeting – July 23rd

Other: Kelly asked what came out of the meeting with Sally Brands. Staff stated that we should be receiving our share of dedicated parkland or cash.

Mark asked when terms for the board members expire. Staff stated November 1st.

Steve Carter said Rifle Mountain Park looks great. The signs were in place, trash was picked up and the host was going around doing his job. Steve asked about the permanent toilet. Staff stated that this was installed by the Access Fund. It really helps to have a camp host at the park to keep things in order. Tom said that he would like to revamp the camp sites and make them nicer. We are still working on completing the beginners climbing wall in RMP.

Ed Weiss commends the Parks and Recreation department for the well job done and the work put into Ride the Rockies.

Weiss talked with the mayor about adding bike paths to the streets. Staff was asked to investigate and add it into the action steps for the strategic plan. Council needs to hear from the board about this issue also..

Jim Boone suggests that we consider a disk golf course in Rifle. The bike path near the creek is a natural terrain for such a thing. Jim Boone says that it is free and there

is not a lot of upkeep work that needs to be put into. There is not a lot of expense involved when buying the equipment. Staff noted that this is where Centennial Park will be built. Rich stated that the area near Lion's Pond would be great for this, especially with it being next to the interstate.

Mark Lapka inquired if we could use the pool year round by building a bubble. Mark wanted to know the board's thoughts. Mark stated we could use the pool year round if we had a bubble. No comments were given by the board.

Ed Weiss adjourned the meeting at 7:37 P.M.