

RIFLE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 8, 2016

PARKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Sara Brainard	X	
Chris Bornholdt	X	
Michael Churchill	X	
Vanessa Ivy	X	
Trudy Lowery	X	
Wilma Paddock	X	
Milton Rodas	X	

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Whitmore, Wayne Edgeton, Steven Samson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Churchill at 6:34 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27TH MEETING:

Wilma moved and Sara seconded to approve minutes of the 1/27/2016 meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

HEAR LITTLE LEAGUE REQUESTS:

Emily Hisel, representing Colorado River Valley Little League, presented CRV Little League's request. Emily stated their need to use Taughenbaugh field for Little League. They are a growing league and would like to expand and add softball. They expect to have three teams and need the field for practices and games. They had about 300 players in 2015 and expect to have 250 to 300 players this year. Little League is opposed to having youth soccer on softball/baseball outfields. They would like soccer to move to other possible locations to make this field available. Soccer is easier to move to other turf locations vs. no other softball/baseball fields. Also, to help insure this, they would like the City to use the "Bowl" area

at Centennial Park for U-10 soccer this season. They are requesting a guarantee to be able to use Taughenbaugh field this season. Emily mentioned that this has been an ongoing obstacle for a couple years and that she began talking to the Parks and Recreation Director this past August and options have been discussed, but no decision has been made. The City is scheduled to expand grass at Wamsley, with support of Re-2, but that will not help until fall and Little League needs a plan B. Tom explained to the board that use of available school fields of adequate size may alleviate the issue for summer of 2016, but still relied on program registrations which are not complete. Community Rec. programs have priority on community owned fields. Also the proposed solutions would only help for 2016, not future years. Little Leagues registration and numbers wouldn't be finalized until early March and registrations for City soccer programs would be complete a couple of weeks later. Though staff understands the reason for the request, staff doesn't have enough guarantees about facilities that they have to coordinate with others, to guarantee any use to Little League. Wilma Paddock asked Tom about uses of Centennial. Tom responded that, since Centennial Park was planned, they have not allowed organized sports uses there. The space was planned for passive uses. Citizen and PRAB members that were involved with master planning of Centennial had emphasized "passive uses". Prior to Centennial Park, almost all facilities were for organized sports and Rifle's emphasis at that time was for more passive recreation spaces. Parks and Rec.'s practices have been not to allow organized sports, especially when line painting and more formal commitments were needed, such as goals, etc. Staff has turned down a few requests of this nature. Trudy Lowery asked what would happen if Little League would not have been able to use City Fields. Emily said they'd have to cut back. Emily mentioned a petition that Little League had circulated. Michael Churchill asked how it was worded. Emily circulated a few pages of the original survey. PRAB members reacted to the way it was worded. Michael was uncomfortable with the wording of the petition. He stated he thought the language was harsh. "The City is doing a disservice" by having soccer on the outfield...? Michael felt like we all had similar goals in mind and that we are a team in sharing the facilities and providing services. Emily also mentioned that Rifle is the only town that charges for the use of fields. Emily stated that Little League really needs a lighted field and Taughenbaugh has lights. Michael suggested the petition be reworded. Trudy commented on the way petitions should be written vs. the way it was written. Tom had comments regarding fees that he wanted to offer in open session; -that we currently do a lump sum billing for little league, based on past averages. (\$3,500). It had been discussed and agreed with Little League representatives in the past, that we'd review fees/charges every couple of years. He said that, because Little League was expanding, if they end up using fields more, fees should reflect that. He didn't want this topic to be taken as an act of retaliation or anything as a spin over this current issue. Emily replied that that was reasonable.

Sara Brainard asked if there were any other alternatives. Emily said no. They would have to cut back practice times. They have more field availability in Meeker because they have dropped Rec. League there.

Michael asked if the board would suggest a direction to staff. Chris Bornholdt said he wasn't ready and felt we need more discussion. To clarify, Tom asked if PRAB agreed that this would be continued at the next meeting on February 22. The consensus of the Board was yes.

Michael had to leave and Wilma assumed the duties of the chair.

DISCUSS REVISED 2016 PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY:

The board had received copies of the draft survey that would be sent to the survey company. Tom stated that The City Manager and Assistant City Manager may have some final revisions and that we felt the survey was too long at that we would be working with the survey company to get it pared down.

DISCUSS DATE TO REVIEW PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN:

After some discussion, March 1 was selected as the date for parks and recreation strategic planning. Tom mentioned that we could start at 5:30, have a meal and do the planning session. Tom thinks we may be able to complete the session in 4 hours or so. There will be more information forthcoming as we make arrangements for location and food.

This will be in preparation of the City's Strategic Planning, which the Board has been invited to on Saturday, April 30th. Key Parks and Recreation staff will attend as well.

OTHER:

Tom updated PRAB on some situations that Recreation staff is dealing with currently-- with Rec. League items with individuals, other towns in the league etc. Tom wanted PRAB to be informed and asked PRAB for input if they hear comments related to the items.

Milton Rodas said he was working on some ways to get funding from outside sources for Parks and Rec.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 22nd.

Vice Chairman Wilma Paddock declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm