

**RIFLE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
PARKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY
JANUARY 23, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by Chris.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Sara Brainard		X
Chris Bornholdt	X	
Michael Churchill		X
Mason Hostadt	X	
Kevin Kelley	X	
Trudy Lowery	X	
Christi Savage		X
Erik Villasenor	X	

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Whitmore, Angie Wilkins, Steve Samson

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5TH MEETING: Kevin made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the January 5th meeting. Trudy 2nd the motion. Motion passed with a voice vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Mason let the board know that the Farmers market committee was looking at Heinze park for the new location for Farmers market. Trudy let him know that the board had spoke with them last year and there was a concern with parking and vendors driving on the grass and irrigation. She stated that there wasn't much electricity at the park either.

STATUS OF BOARD SEATS: Tom stated that Chris, Mason and Kevin all have terms that end this month. All three stated that they would like to stay on the board.

OFFICER ELECTIONS: Tom stated that Michael is currently the Chair, Sara is the Vice Chair and Chris is the secretary. Trudy stated that Michael has requested to not be the chair again because of his schedule. Mason nominated Chris for the position of Chair, Trudy 2nd the motion. Motion passed with a voice vote. Chris nominated Sara for the position of Vice Chair, Trudy 2nd the motion. Motion passed with a voice vote. Kevin nominated Mason for the position of secretary and Chris 2nd the motion. Motion passed with a voice vote.

CRVLL FIELD USAGE CHARGES: Emily Hisel, Melody Caldwell and Tom Slappey were in attendance to represent Little League. Emily let the board know that Tom and Steve gave her a bill for the 2016 season of \$9,000, being much higher than the \$3500 they paid the year prior. She stated that Tom told her that 60% of the Little League players needed to be from Rifle to get the discount or else the fees would \$18,000 for next year. Tom Slappey questioned the totals and wanted a breakdown of fees from field usage, lights, prep, irrigation, fertilizer, man hours, equipment etc. Chris stated that the board started keeping track of all of those totals but if the City charged what those totals were, the fees would be even more than the \$18,000. Emily stated that if they were charged the \$18,000, Little League would need to increase their fees or not play in Rifle and go to Rangely, Meeker, New Castle or Silt. She stated that Little League does not pay any fees to use the other town's fields. Those towns all have an agreement with Little League because they are non profit. She stated that Rifle is centrally located and had the most fields. She stated that all the Little League players were in town for one day and that generated a lot of revenue for Rifle. She stated that the fees are \$150 for the first child and \$75 for the 2nd child in a family. She said they would need to double their fees and it wouldn't be fair to have a player in Rangely pay the increase in fee because of Rifle's policy. She stated that when they came to the board last year, they were willing to pay extra for the additional field usage of Taughenbaugh. She stated that Little League wants that same flat fee plus the additional use of the additional field. She said that if Little League leaves Rifle, money leaves Rifle. She would like the board to think about the mandatory 60% of players being from Rifle because when the other players and towns come to Rifle, money is generated and seasonal jobs for umpires. Little League is an amenity for Rifle. She stated that she talked with the REDC and they wouldn't want that taken away. Tom stated that the \$18,000 probably wouldn't be charged for the upcoming season. Those are just the actual numbers of games and practices that Little League uses the fields. He stated that the flat fee was a problem solver and that the discount was given from 2007 stating that they were a new league. They are no longer a new league. Tom handed out copies of the fee schedule for organized team discounts. He stated that the total staff gave her of the \$9450 was at a 50% discount. She said when she got these totals she had promised to not tell anyone on the board to cause problems. Tom stated that fees need to go up as usage goes up and down if usage goes down. Tom Slappey wanted to know exactly what Little League was getting for those fees. Tom stated that the City is going to get a consultant to come in and do a study to get a more accurate fee schedule. Tom Slappey stated that \$75 and hour is not worth it. There are dirt clods on the fields and he can get pictures and he had 3 kids taken to the emergency room for injuries and the fields are not in good shape. Kevin asked how many players Little League had this past year. Emily stated that there were 252 kids. 83 were from Rifle and 17 coaches were from Rifle. She stated because of the policy usage changed Little League will be forced to go to other towns and use their fields. She stated that it would be better for the league and better for the town if they stayed. Tom stated that they needed to realize the impact the Little League had on scheduling the facilities. Emily stated that she would have to move opening and closing ceremonies to another town. Tom Slappy stated that Little League could give an advance schedule of the practices and games they would need ahead of time with no problem to get the flat fee charge. Emily stated that she wants the agreement in writing and Little League would agree to pay the 2016 invoice with the \$225 taken off for the Roan light charge. Chris stated that when Little League started they were being charged \$3500 and they were half the size they are now which means more teams and more usage. He stated that staff was working with Little League to get fees down from the actual policy. Emily Stated the REDC did a study and Little League in Rifle is in the middle as far as fees being charged. She said they collected over \$20,000 last year in fees and that not all of the players pay the

full fee or some are on scholarship. Steve stated that he talked to other municipalities regarding Little League and fees. He said that New Castle and Silt has fields that are owned by the school district and they don't charge for use of those fields. Rangely doesn't charge because they run the program and Meeker doesn't charge for the field usage as well as gives \$2500 to Little League for scholarships and provides a field supervisor at no cost. He stated that he would update the invoice and get it to Emily. Steve also stated that last year he had to turn down 6 adult softball teams and asked the board if he could expand his league even if it meant field being taken away from Little League. The board and Emily agreed that Recreation programs take precedence and he should be able to expand his league. Mason suggested staying with the flat fee for practices and games. Steve stated that there were approximately 150 games, 640 practice hours and 42.5 hours for tournament for Little League last year. Chris recommended a fee per team should be charged for Little League. Tom stated that nothing could be decided until the board met with council.

PRAB CALENDAR FOR 2017: Tom handed out the 2017 calendar and the board went over the dates.

UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS: Tom let the board know that the playground at Centennial Park will begin in the spring. The natural play structures will be at a later time. He let the board know that the Rotary arch will be moved from Metro down to Centennial. He also stated that the bleachers for Taughenbaugh were approved and construction was going to start this spring but the City is now trying to get an FLMD grant to help with the cost.

January 25th PRAB will attend the Inspire Youth Presentation at the Library.

The next meeting will be February 6th.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.