

**RIFLE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES 2009**  
**MONDAY, March 9, 2009**  
**RIFLE CITY HALL**

| <b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b> | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Jim Boone               | X          |           |
| Chris Coffelt           | X          |           |
| Christi Gray            |            | X         |
| Mark Lapka              | X          |           |
| Tom Stuver              | X          |           |
| Ed Weiss                | X          |           |
| Mildred Whitt           | X          |           |

**STAFF PRESENT:** Aleks Briedis, Tom Whitmore, Jenn Reich

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Weiss at 5:32 pm.

**Minutes of February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting** – Mark Lapka made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tom Stuver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed with a voice vote.

**Comments from the public** – No public present

**Welcome Ryan Mackley** – City Council appointed Ryan Mackley as the alternate position to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**Member List** – The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member list is included in the packet. End of term re-application was discussed and determined a re-submittal of application was all that was necessary. City Council may or may not want an interview for returning members. The following updates were made to the list:

Mark Lapka updated address to P.O. Box 1927, made the 505 number his office line and 309-9330 his home line.

Jim Boone updated his office phone number to begin with 665

**Senior Center Report** – Jenn went to the Senior Center for the Senior Wellness class on March 9<sup>th</sup> to incorporate the Wii exercise program. She concluded that the Wii would be utilized more by the Seniors if instruction was incorporated with another type of program. She was asked to return to future Senior Wellness programs for instruction and program coordination. The next scheduled Wellness program is on April 13.

**Coal Ridge Baseball Update** – RE-2 school District will not be applying for a GOCO grant this cycle. Coal Ridge will not be building a baseball field this season. New Castle supports the construction, but the school is on County land which holds precedence over the property. The estimated cost to complete the field is \$640,000. Mark Lapka asked if there is a county wide recreation. There is no board. Ed Weiss asked if Garfield County had put money into the baseball field. Aleks stated he thought they did due to the Health & Human Services building being constructed on the previous Cooper Field site. Ed Weiss wanted to make sure we had an IGA with the school district. Aleks stated to the board yes we do have an IGA with the district.

Ed Weiss wanted to know our timeline of finishing Deerfield Park and what we have left. Tom Whitmore stated to the board their first focus will be to finish the landscaping. Their second focus will be the concession stand and third to install permanent bleachers. Tom Whitmore also stated that the major items to complete at Deerfield Park are: drainage, landscaping, veterans area, parking islands and that he would like to see a retaining wall along Acacia Ave. The estimated date of completion of Deerfield is 2011. The Parks Department is waiting on funding for completion of these projects. More focus will be directed towards Deerfield once Centennial Park is under construction and the Parks Maintenance Building is completed. Tom Whitmore stated that the school district has donated \$600,000 and we have already received \$300,000. Aleks stated he is working on a request for proposals but has been asked to hold off on purchases until after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Tom Whitmore stated that he is working with John Scalzo on plans for a Veterans Wall by the Veterans Memorial. Tom is trying to keep John's group not too far ahead of the Parks in planning and asks that they work together towards a unified plan for Deerfield Park.

**Centennial Park Update** – Staff met with Design concepts and SGM to review the 90% construction documents on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Staff also had an open house that night to which about 20 residents came through to get information on the Park. Most were happy and just had a couple questions. Flooding was the main concern. The 100% construction meeting is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>. Ed Weiss asked how funds were transferred year after year in regards to this project. Aleks stated that the money is earmarked in the General Fund for Centennial Park. Aleks also stated that the money from the DOLA grant will be given to the city during construction; and the money from the GOCO grant will be given at the end of construction. Phase I of park construction is being funded through grants and donations. Phase II will consist of private money and sponsorships. There are 10-12 waysides and about 5 bridges to be sponsored. Mark Lapka asked if electricity will be setup throughout the entire park and if lights will be set up on a 10pm shut off time. Tom Whitmore stated electricity will be throughout the entire park for pathway lighting and plug-ins. All security lighting will be downcast and pathway lighting will be solar powered as to not be too bright. The park itself will close at 10pm but the pathway will be open 24 hours. Ed Weiss asked if DOLA money is starting to dry up due to the economy. Aleks stated he has not heard of anything like that happening and they are still putting out stimulus money.

**Parks Maintenance Facility** – Tom Whitmore stated that when the weather is warmer the board will go for a tour of construction. Masonry walls are going up. Plumbing is installed along with all utilities and foundation walls are being backfilled. Jim Boone asked if there were any road closure issues. Staff reported no phone calls or complaints heard. Aleks stated that the Planning Department is working on annexing the road.

**Pool Update** – Aleks stated that staff has begun improvements to the locker rooms and office. They reused the lockers from the old Police Department for the office. The locker rooms are currently being painted and will be installing new lockers and toilet partitions. They are also currently taking bids to paint the pool. Letters to last year's staff were sent out last week. Mark Lapka asked if the painters will be sandblasting the pool again. Aleks stated no they will just be painting over the existing paint. The last company that painted the pool went out of business. Jim Boone asked how long this paint life will be. Aleks stated much longer than the last job. Mark Lapka asked if the splash pool paint job was still ok. Aleks stated that yes it is fine. He also stated that Colorado Poolscares will be checking drains and signing off on the updates that have been made. The main pool drains are easily retrofitted for new drain covers. The splash pool is main concern. Jim Boone asked if there are any more parking issues at Metro Park now that construction at the new Police Building is completed. Aleks stated everything is

back to normal. Mark Lapka wanted to know the status of the crack in the deep end of the pool. Aleks stated it is not a problem and is holding up well.

**Gold Medal Award 2009** – Staff has submitted an application for the 2009 NRPA Gold Medal Award. We will find out mid-April if we are a finalist.

**Summer 2009** – Activity brochures were sent out to Rifle residents on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We are currently advertising for our seasonal employee positions. Soccer and baseball/softball and t-ball registrations are currently being accepted until March 27<sup>th</sup>. April 20<sup>th</sup> swim lesson registrations will begin. Ed Weiss asked if Parks will be utilizing the Rifle Correctional Facility workers any longer. Tom Whitmore stated that yes they will be utilizing their help. They are keeping about 4-6 workers who work 5 days a week, 8 hours a day. Tom Whitmore is having a meeting their crew leader to figure out man power hours for the summer. Jim Boone wanted to know how the pitching machines were holding up. Aleks stated they are working well and charging at the Parks Building. Tom Stuver asked if the Correctional Facility crew helped with landscaping and the clean-up? Tom Whitmore stated that yes they help with all aspects of daily maintenance. Tom Stuver also asked if the city had acquired the property of land that was for sale between the cemetery and 9<sup>th</sup> street because it is in dire need of a clean-up. Aleks stated that he believes Savage Land Company had purchased the land and is planning on using it as a park dedication area. Ed Weiss asked where the city wide clean-up was going to be focused. Tom Whitmore stated that special trash pick-up is April 19 and 26, and May 2<sup>nd</sup> was the official city wide clean-up that is going to be focused mainly downtown again.

**Next Meeting** – The meeting for March 23<sup>rd</sup> was cancelled on account of multiple missing members. The next meeting is scheduled for April 6.

**Other** – Aleks reminded the board to watch out for Parks and Recreation series premiering on NBC in April. Mark Lapka asked if there is a bike path running from Railroad to 16<sup>th</sup> street. Aleks stated that not all that land has been acquired yet. Mark Lapka than asked if the Department could claim imminent domain – Aleks stated he did not want to do that. Mark Lapka than asked how tax figures were looking. Aleks stated he has not seen an end-of-year statement from Accounts Payable yet so he does not know how our figures look as of right now. Budget issues should not be a problem considering there is \$500,000 budgeted but Aleks reminded the board he was asked to hold off on purchasing until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Mark Lapka asked who was responsible for cleaning the street in front of Rifle Creek Theater and the DDA Parking lot. He stated that lately those areas have been trashed from movie theater trash and more. Tom Whitmore stated that DDA has a private contractor to plow the parking lot so they may be responsible. Tom Stuver stated that some trash may be coming from the laundry mat also and reminded the board that the quicker it gets cleaned up the less likely it will collect more trash. Tom Stuver stated that it may be possible to re-write the lease of Rifle Creek Theater making the manager responsible for trash removal. Tom Stuver then went on to state the Rifle Community Foundation had received a request from Three Rivers Football for help paying field rental fees. Their request was granted and Aleks stated he did receive the check. Jim Boone asked if Little League had requested the Community Foundation help in paying their fees last year – Aleks stated no they had not. Tom Stuver stated that the Foundation told Little League they would help, but never received a request. Jim Boone stated he was happy to be back at meetings after being absent due to coaching commitments. He asked if there was any new news about the Community Center and was told no. He then asked if the City was planning on joining with the Library on their new construction. Aleks stated that the Library was much farther ahead in their planning than the city. There was talk about a new city hall but information came after the 2009 budget was already approved. Ed Weiss stated that DDA also

has requests on how the construction was run, but wants all departments to come together and create a feasible and logical plan. Tom Stuver stated the new construction is planned to go all the way to Country Attic on 2<sup>nd</sup> street. Jim Boone stated that the graffiti removal at Davidson Park has been great. Tom Whitmore took the thank you and stated that Parks is creating a volunteer group of moms and concerned citizens around the park to watch out and report vandalism. Tom Stuver asked if the ground issue beneath the swings is a compaction issue. Tom Whitmore stated that he thinks the surface area was not bonded enough and the patches that were applied ended up being thicker than the original surface – which ends up in faster deterioration. He also stated that the solar cameras were not included in the 2009 budget, so they have to ask council for the purchase to be approved. There was talk about installing lights on the poles needed to mount cameras. Jim Boone asked about the water pipe waiting to be installed in Davidson. Tom Whitmore stated we wanted our DOLA funded construction crew to complete and have only a few hundred feet to connect. After that installation there are a few pump modifications to complete in order to have a back-up pump. Jim Boone stated he was impressed to see the women running group at Highlands. He stated it looks like a great program and is proud of the women involved, and wanted to know if anyone knew what group it was and if they needed funding of some sort. Chris Coffelt said he thought it was a national program with Suzanne Simon. Jim Boone stated he wants to see more programs like this.

**Meeting Adjourned** by Chairman Ed Weiss at 6:50pm.