

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, March 9, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at the Buena Vista Community Center, 715 E. Main Street, Buena Vista, Colorado. Earl Richmond called the meeting to order at 7:35am.

Members present were Co-Chair Earl Richmond, Co-Chair McKenzie Lyle, Marcus Trusty, Luke Urbine, Gary Crowder, Julie Robison, and Dan Hamme . Also in attendance were Parks and Recreation Supervisor Emily Osborn, Recreation Program Coordinator Ashley Davis, and Trustee Eric Gibb as well as Student Member Hayden Gibb. Amanda Krost and Jeri Pikul were present from Mt. Princeton. Town Administrator Brandy Reitter was present, along with Assistant to the Town Administrator Emily Katsimpalis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gary Crowder moved to approve the February 2016 minutes. Dan Hamme seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda is amended to move the Recreation Event Center Feasibility study to the first discussion item. Earl Richmond would like to add the River Park Clean-Up Day, Archaeological Report of the River Park, and Bouldering to the ongoing discussion items. Luke would like to add a discussion about the softball schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- I. Discussion re Trails Committee- CMA Rewrite Proposal: The Trails Board would like to make a sub-committee to discuss the rewrite of the trails network to include the Ramsour Bridge area. Earl Richmond is interested in participating and will help recruit others. Everyone would like to know how often meetings are and what the commitment is before they join the sub-committee.

- II. Discussion re Part Time Recreation Position: The Recreation Board has spoken a bit about what a part-time, seasonal position would look like and how that could help BV REC programming. Emily Osborn reported that there is \$105,000 in the budget for wages, and after subtracting all hourly wages and BV REC salaries there is about \$25,000 left over. She reported that BV REC will have about 61 hours of programming a week- too many hours for Ashley and her to handle alone. If BV REC pays another individual \$12 an hour for 20 hours a week, they would still be substantially under budget. Earl asked about the possibility of an intern and Ashley reported that we could do it in the future but this year looks slim to find someone as well as to get the educational component in place so quickly. Luke, Gary and McKenzie are all in favor of hiring this position. Brandy reported that the extra funds in wages were from Kathryn Wadsworth's salary. Those funds will be carried over for a year and we can look at that budget item for the future. Earl reported that he uses internships for CKS and he that the students usually wait until last minute to be assigned to one, plus he has them do the paperwork so he has less to do weekly. This keeps the work load minimal for recreation staff and has the students be accountable for their own documents.

ONGOING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- I. Recreation Center Feasibility Study: Earl stated that the conversation about the mission statement and the feasibility report tie together for the purpose of this discussions. Eric recognized that the Town has a lot of outdoor activities to offer, however, there are still people who enjoy indoor activities. A few communities around BV have done this successfully and the Trustees thought it was a good idea to research what that would like for Buena Vista. This effort included a grant to help with the feasibility study, and to gather information for how this could be possible. He believes that the final study was a bit misinterpreted and that people believed this was a blue print for a final project when that was not the intention of the project. The final product is helpful for data and feasibility of how this could possibly happen and it provides us with the numbers, the size, and possible cost, among other things. He believes that if this project is going to be completed, that a public group will need to be able to take it on and continue the momentum. Town employees can be support to a group, but the idea of a recreation district must come from the community and the leg-work must be done by them. Because the Rec Board has such diversity of opinions he thinks that a sub-group needs to come from here to start the first steps and create a different committee to study these items presented in the report. Brandy stated that the Town studies things frequently and that's why this information was gathered. From the outside, it may look like government moves slowly, but most of that is due to data collection. She believes this product is a good jumping point for a group to get moving on but from here on out the Town will be minimally involved. Luke asked if the information published in the Chaffee County Times was a press-release and Brandy stated that it was, and she stated that Mason Miller took it and morphed it into a story. Earl questioned what the role of the Recreation Board is in light of this report, and Brandy stated that, because they had input in the beginning process, there isn't really a need for them to discuss it further. She reported that the things included and what the design looks like has the ability to change if the group sees the need for more/less/different items.
- II. Recreation Program Update: Ashley has been compiling lists of the participants that BV REC saw come to programs in 2015 and the start of 2016. She divided the information and found that the highest group of participants was from within Town limits, were female, and ranged from 0-19 years of age. This is good information to keep and to help BV REC guide decisions. There are currently 12 volleyball teams for the co-ed league, with about 40 people showing up on Sunday nights. Girls Softball information is going out this week, Dog Smarts is beginning, and all of the other classes are continuing well. Ashley and Emily have been working on rewriting contracts and working on policies for both the Youth Sports and Adult Sports league. There was some question from the Rec Advisory Board as far as participation in helping keep Buena Vista Youth Soccer running smoothly, so that will stay on the forefront of conversation. It is a lot of revenue but a large commitment. Eric stated that the role of BV REC would be to support these groups that are functioning well and act as a safety net. Eric believes that the Board would be in support of using some of the leftover wages from Kathryn to help bolster a program like youth soccer.
- III. Mission Statement: BV REC is hoping to develop something to be a guideline for what they do and why they do it. Earl sees this as two parts: where do we want the rec department to head and how we can get that vision out to the community. Eric reported that Emily Katsimpalis is working on a way to clarify the role of the advisory boards and how we can get information between them and the Trustees in a quicker fashion. The Board of Trustees will then make sure that all things recreation come through the Recreation Advisory Board. Eric also suggested to maybe wait a few months and have this discussion after Emily K's final documents are in place in case that changes what we're looking to do. Luke feels as though things are not

jiving well with reporting to the Board, what the Rec Board is doing, etc. He feels as though there is something very different between what's happening with the municipality versus this volunteer group who puts time in to give honest feedback. He feels that it is not team work and there is disconnect somewhere between all the different interest groups. Eric agrees and that is why he is going for such an emphasis on getting these relationships to be equally respected and presented with the same information because the voice of the advisory boards does matter. Marcus wants to know where the problem came from with the lack of communication and how we can get clear lines back. For example, in 2014 the Rec Board put a list together of priorities for 2015 and then the money for the feasibility report comes through out of thin air without a discussion on it, when it had not been on that list. The Rec Board advised that the Town not get rid of the director position and they did which maybe caused the lapse in communication. Eric believes that it is not a system failure, but rather the Trustees dropping the ball, so it should be able to be remedied. Earl believes that part of the separation came when we moved the rec department to the community center, when the Town demoted the director position, etc. Luke suggested that maybe Emily K start coming to meetings and report like Kathryn used to do about the feel from the Trustees. Amanda Krost questioned the response of "well, it is Brandy's decision" that keeps coming from staff. She would like to eliminate that answer and continue to work with the Trustees. Ashley is curious how we can have Emily Osborn gain more communication and authority without getting caught up in the Recreation Director role and not being compensated for it. Eric advised the Rec Board to give it until July and see if things get resolved. Jeri feels like BV REC now has a lack of ownership, and Lisa stated that Emily has a lack of authority and things are not getting done as effectively and efficiently as they had been done in the past. Luke doesn't have the feeling that the Trails Board and Rec Boards are on the same level because this Board has a specific department to support it. Dan Hamme stated that the Rec Board has a specific, big picture component compared to other Advisory Boards. McKenzie feels as though the shrinking of the department has made it seem like a lesser deal in Town. The department brings in revenue so the Rec Board does have slightly more of a say. Earl would like to keep ideas coming, having each individual gather bullet points for next meeting to develop a mission statement and how that can assist BV REC.

- IV. Lake Placid Hockey Rink: Dan and Aaron picked up the ice rink and equipment so it is now in Buena Vista. Ten people were there to unload the trucks at Public Works. They are currently working with high school students to design the logo for promotional material. They have reached out to ACA to get some concrete to extend the slab, but they are still waiting to hear back on that and about electric access with Sangre de Cristo. Dan believes it is in the Town's best interest to put the entire plan together at once instead of piecing it together. The land to the north of the slab is not going to be developed for about 10 years, so they are able to move the rink if necessary, but it will not be an immediate need. Climax Mine is doing a match grant and the town will match funds raised. Fundraising will be the next chapter and Charmayne is working on how to do that effectively.
- V. Softball Schedule: Luke and Marcus have been talking to people around Town who do want to play softball, but they cannot commit to two nights a week for each league. They are suggesting to do double headers for each team instead of two nights. They also spoke with the umpires who would prefer to be paid per game instead of being hourly. Ashley stated that she will work with all these people to develop the season in this manner. They also suggested that Ashley be present at games to help run things and minimize disagreements.

- VI. River Park Clean-Up: The River Park Clean Up will take place on Sunday, May 1. It will be the same as it has been in the past few years, with the after party taking place at the Eddyline once again. The Collegiate Peaks Trail Run is the weekend after the clean-up. Earl will get more details to everyone when he gets them.
- VII. Bouldering: On April 1, there will be a boulder hold cleaning session from 4-6pm followed by a hang out from 6-8pm. Emily Osborne will be working on getting a group together to change the routes.
- VIII. Archaeological Report: Earl is curious as to what the status is of the archaeological report from the River Park. Currently, the Town will spend \$10,000 to move the pump house by the end of April so that the town can water fields with non-potable water. Colorado State University is interested in possible making it an archaeological site since it's from around 3000 BC but no definite decision has been made as of now.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned by Earl Richmond at 9:06am.

Respectfully submitted:

Earl Richmond, Co-Chair

Ashley Davis, Recreation Program Coordinator