

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry
Advisory Board
January 17, 2020 Minutes

Members in attendance were Chairperson Tom Rennick, Roman Jefferson, Councilmember Mike Lavey, and Director of Parks and Recreation Dean Palmquist.

James Alexander and Recreation Supervisor Rosa Dimon were guests in attendance.

Director of Parks and Recreation Dean Palmquist brought the meeting to order at 7:05 AM and welcomed everyone to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Advisory Board Meeting.

Minutes from the November 15, 2019, advisory board meeting were approved.

Old Business

A. South Neighborhood Park Project Status & Park Naming Recommendation –

Dean stated that the park planning team has been working with DHM Design and Geoff Engineering and have completed 100% construction documents for the neighborhood park project with some possible minor revisions. Dean reviewed the phasing steps with the advisory board members with a color coded site map representing the various phases. Dean handed out Phase 1A and 1B cost estimate sheets to the advisory board members for review. Dean shared that he had discussions with Friends of Recreation to start a capital campaign effort for the neighborhood park project, as Phase 1A needs another \$200,000 raised in funds to start construction. Rosa Dimon presented to the advisory board members the top five park names from the public meeting process and the on-line survey results that had just been completed at the end of this past year. Rosa shared that we received 324 responses for the new park naming with 158 responses supporting Panther Park and the second highest support being 47 responses for South Park. Also, survey comments were included along with the results in the handout. Dean requested for the advisory board members to review what was handed out and then come prepared for a discussion and possible recommendation at the next advisory board meeting. Dean stated that if a recommendation is given at the next advisory board meeting in February, he could bring the recommendation before the Council at their first work session in March for Council discussion and then approval.

B. Renaming of City Park to Veterans Park Council Report -

Dean reported that the City Council members unanimously voted to change the name of City Park to Veterans Park at their December 10, 2019, Council meeting. Dean shared that there was a great turnout at the December 10, 2019, Council meeting from the Veterans' groups to support the name change from City Park to Veterans Park with a couple of Veterans' representatives speaking on behalf of the Veterans in attendance. Dean ordered the approved Veterans Park sign on Friday, January 3, 2020, and is waiting for it to be completed and then an installation date will be determined.

- C. Establishing a Tree Commission** – Dean and Roman Jefferson prepared a handout for the advisory board members which included the requirements for a Tree City USA community, prior duties of the Cortez Tree Commission, a resolution to combine the duties of the Cortez Tree Commission with the Cortez Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 2005, and the Colorado State Forest Service cover letter for the 2009 Cortez Tree Inventory stating that there are approximately 2,500 street and park trees within the city limits of Cortez and valued over \$1.75 million. Roman presented the need for forming a tree commission once again with too many responsibilities upon the advisory board and the parks and recreation department staff. Roman views the tree commission, as a resource to draw upon to assist the City with proper care of the trees. Dean shared his concern of having the resources available first to carry out the recommendations of the tree commission. Roman believes the tree commission will help to create the necessary City resources to appropriately take care of the City’s trees. The discussion led to an action step of drafting a memo to take before City Council at one of their next work sessions in March 2020.
- D. Municipal Outdoor Swimming Pool Starting Blocks Fundraiser by Cortez Water Dragons** – Dean updated the advisory board members, since the last advisory board meeting the Cortez Water Dragons had approached the parks and recreation department staff about pursuing the entire funding of \$30,000 to \$35,000 for new starting blocks and concrete anchors at the municipal outdoor swimming pool. The Cortez Water Dragons were informed by City staff that no money was available to help them out with this project. So, the Cortez Water Dragons approached the City Council at their December 10, 2019, work session to get approval for sponsorships and donations to be posted at the municipal outdoor pool in recognizing any of the major contributors to the starting block project. The Cortez Water Dragons received approval from City Council at their December 10, 2019 work session and council meeting.
- E. Other Old Business** – Dean shared with the advisory board members that the GOCO School Yard Initiative Grant was submitted to Great Outdoors Colorado on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, for the Montezuma-Cortez Middle School play structure with \$82,500 being requested. Dean mentioned that he followed up with the GOCO staff member and found out that she received 17 grant applications and 5 or 6 applications will be funded in using the \$500,000 allocated for that grant program.

New Business

- A. Nominating a new Advisory Board Chairperson** – Dean requested for chairperson nominations to fill Rachel Medina’s vacancy as the chairperson and shared that Tom Rennick is interested in the chairperson position. Tom Rennick was then motioned and seconded for the chairperson position and was unanimously voted to fill the chairperson position.
- B. SCC (Youth Conservation Corp) Fundraiser Project** – Dean shared that due to the City’s budget constraints \$8,100 had to be cut from the park maintenance division’s budget to fund this year’s youth conservation corp projects. Dean asked the advisory

board members if they would be willing to help fundraise, and the advisory board members were willing to do so, if the right fundraiser is available to do so.

C. Other New Business – In other new business, Roman Jefferson asked about the Caukins property and who owned it, as he observed that there are some large trees within the property that need to be watered and pruned. Dean and Mike Lavey stated that they will check with the City’s planning department to see who has control of the property, as it could be two different entities.

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, February 21, 2020, at 7:00 AM at the Cortez Recreation Center Child Watch Room.

Adjournment—8:35 AM