



PARK/PLAYGROUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 2/8 AGENDA

**February 08, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Town Hall – 420 Central Avenue**

**If you wish to attend virtually, please visit the town website under the government tab for the
zoom link: <https://townofdolores.colorado.gov>**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Identification of Actual or Perceived Conflicts of Interest**
- 4. Approval of the Agenda**
- 5. Approval of Minutes:** From the December 14th and January 11th
- 6. Citizens Comments:** Citizens may comment at this time ONLY.
- 7. New Business:**
 - 7.1 Dolores Chamber Event Calendar
 - 7.2 Dolores Parks History
- 8. Continuing Business:**
 - 8.1 Discussion: GOCO Grant Update
 - 8.2 Discussion: Adult Exercise Equipment
 - 8.3 Discussion: Mission/Vision Statement
- 9. Adjournment**



Minutes

Town of Dolores Colorado

Park/Playground Advisory Committee Meeting

December 14, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

In Person at 420 Central Ave, or

Virtually, please see the Town Website at:

<https://townofdolores.colorado.gov>

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL:** Present at the meeting were Chairman Robinson, Commissioner Chubbuck, Commissioner Gillespie, Commissioner Mosher, Commissioner Carloni, Ex-Officio Grigg. Also present were, Manager Paul Ruud and Treasurer Heather Robertson
- 3. IDENTIFICATION OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** No conflicts were
- 4. ACTION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ex-Officio Grigg moved to approve the agenda with the exception that item 6.1 Mission/Vision Statement be moved to item 6.3 after the discussion of Parks Committee Public Outreach, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie
- 5. ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Commissioner Gillespie move to approve the minutes from the November 9th with the exception that “Trustee” be changed to “Commissioner” when referring to parks committee members, Commissioner Chubbuck seconded with unanimous approval from the committee
- 5. CITIZENS COMMENTS: (5 minutes only):** Citizens may comment at this time ONLY. No comments made by the public
- 6. CONTINUING BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:**
 - 6.1 Discussion:** GOCO Grant Update
 - Chairman Robinson congratulated the parks committee and all of those involved for their efforts in getting the GOCO grant application put together and submitted. This application was much superior to the previous submission, much in part due to the hiring of grant writer Emily Spahn. Chairman Robinson also gave an update about the board meeting himself and Commissioner Carloni were able to attend regarding the GOCO grant application and what those funds would be used towards. The Town board was concerned about how the Parks Board would raise matching funds and the timing of receiving GOCO

funds in relation to matching funds. The Town Board passed a resolution in support of the GOCO grant with the exception of Trustee Wheeler. Manager Paul Ruud gave an update on the meeting he and Emily Spahn attended with our local GOCO representative, who was supportive of our request for funds but also cautioned that there was still the possibility of our application being denied. Ex-Officio Grigg inquired about when we would know if our application was approved, and Commissioner Carloni stated those would be reviewed sometime in January possibly the second or third week. The board also discussed matching funds versus in kind funds. Commissioner Carloni also gave an update on where the skate/bike park committee is at on raising matching funds. The total amount of matching funds dedicated specifically to the skate/bike park is \$300,000. Commissioner Carloni mentioned that there are several private donors lined up to secure these funds as well as opportunities for other possible grant funding. Currently the skate/bike park committee has raised over \$100,000. There was also discussion on how the Parks Board would come up with the other matching funds not being raised by the skate/bike park committee as well as a breakdown of the parks budget that was submitted to GOCO. There was also discussion on how to raise community support in regard to funding for the park.

6.2 Discussion: Parks Committee Public Outreach

- The Parks Board discussed getting a kiosk put up at Joe Rowell Park for public information. This would be helpful to get information to the public not only about what is happening with the park but other Town events/discussions. Commissioner Carloni suggested dedicating part of the land acknowledgement plaque to create a kiosk. Ex-Officio Grigg also brought up the fact that the design of the kiosk needs to be able to withstand the elements unlike some of our previous plaques. The board also discussed the use of media in regard to public outreach such as Facebook, a FAQ in the water bill, use of our town website, etc.

6.3 Discussion: Mission/Vision Statement

- The board discussed the creation of a mission/vision statement. The purpose of this statement is to give the public an idea of the purpose of the Parks Board. This would also provide direction for current and future Parks Boards members and help maintain focus on the overall goals of the board. The board agreed to brainstorm ideas and discuss them at the next parks meeting.

6.4 Discussion: Adult Exercise Equipment

- The Town currently has a stationary bike and a rowing machine that needs to be installed at the park. Commissioner Carloni has reached out to the manufacturer of the equipment about the technicalities of installation. An additional piece that goes onto the equipment needs to be purchased to be able to install those. The quote Commissioner Carloni received for that additional piece is around \$1,500.

7. New Business:

7.1 2002 Parks Handprint, Picket, Bricks fundraiser

- This item was discussed during our GOCO grant update. The Town is in possession of tiles and paperwork from a previous fundraising project done for the park during the Ron Kotarski Memorial project in 2021/2022. There was discussion on whether those tiles could be used for fundraising for our current parks project. Commissioner Carloni mentioned at the end of the meeting these tiles/bricks could be used at the skate/bike park.

8. Adjournment: 7:36 P.M.



Minutes

Town Of Dolores Colorado

Park/Playground Advisory Committee Meeting

January 11, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

In Person at 420 Central Ave, or

Virtually, please see the Town Website at:

<https://townofdolores.colorado.gov>

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Present at the meeting were Chairman Robinson, Commissioner Gillespie, Commissioner Chubbuck, Commissioner Carloni, Commissioner Mosher, Ex-Officio Grigg, Manager Ruud, and Assistant Clerk Swope
3. **Identification of Actual or Perceived Conflicts of Interest.** None stated.
4. **Action/Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Carloni moved and Commissioner Gillespie seconded to approve the agenda.
Yes: All
No: none
5. **Action/Approval of The Minutes from the December 14 2023 meeting.** *The minutes for December will be presented at the next meeting.*
6. **Citizens Comments: (5 minutes only):** Citizens may comment at this time. *No other citizens were present.*
7. **New Business: none**

7.1

8. CONTINUING BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

8.1 Discussion: Mission/Vision Statement. The group reviewed a list of vision statements Chairman Robinson presented. They will prepare individual versions of a vision statement and mission statements and email them to the Chairmen. Chairpman Robinson will compile them and they will be reviewed at the February meeting. The group talked about getting the park usage increased. They would like to reach out to area programs that might use the park fields. They would like to bring back the Drive-in movie option in the park. They discussed public outreach for future activities for the bike

park for fund raising. They talked about using the parks maintenance employee to perform duties of setting up and breaking down equipment for sporting events.

8.2 Discussion: GOCO Grant Update. The latest information on the grant was that the awards were going to be announced in March. Related information about the Flanders Park bathroom grant was reviewed by the group. The bathroom placement is determined to be at the west side of the parking area due to gravity flow sewer. The grant will expire this year so the construction must take place this year. Requests for proposal will be going out this spring. The town has applied for "T-Mobile small-town park" grants. There has been no new information about this T-Mobile grant so Manager Ruud will be reaching out. The Bike Park Club will be fundraising for the bike park jumps meanwhile so that the jumps can be constructed this summer.

8.3 Discussion: Parks Committee Public Outreach. The commissioners talked of producing a newsletter that gets circulated around town in various business. An example of this was the newsletter that is circulated in Dove Creek that has updates of activities and functions in the Town from groups like the senior center, library, and other groups. Maybe the Chamber director is interested in compiling a newsletter. Chairman Robinson presented a mockup of a flyer for public outreach. Commissioner Carloni would like to see the Parks Committee have a social media platform for highlighting the progress and other activities of the Committee. The town has a Facebook page where the Parks Committee can send content to town staff to post for them. There could be public outreach events at the Community Center and other open spaces. The Parks Committee wants to use the town logo for their flyers and announcements.

9. Adjournment. Commissioner Carloni moved and Commissioner Gillespie seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Riverside Park is an approximately three acre parcel on the Dolores River, across from 16th and 17th streets, south of the Y where Railroad Avenue (Highway 145) and central avenue connect on the east end of town. It flanks Highway 145 with Triangle Park. The park has two grassy areas, divided by an access drive. A drainage crosses the park directing run-off from the town and the mesas to the north to the river. Riverside Park is well used by residents for casual recreation and access to the river, and by other picnickers and anglers from the region.

The park has evolved from a summer camp-trailer park to an open space/fishing/picnic area. The park was annexed in 1959. The park had one toilet, an RV dump station, and a frost-free water hydrant during the 1960's and to the 1970's. During the summer a core group of campers would see to the upkeep of the grounds and keep order in the camp. By the 1980's the park's main use was picnic ground and fishing hole, the toilet and RV dump went out of service and only a few picnic areas remained. Fishermen would use the riverbank along the park and the water treatment facility next door. In the 1980's a row of shade trees was planted in the park in the north lawn. Some have memorial markers others were donated to the park by the Rotary Club. Three barbeque grills were installed just to the south of the access drive.

In February of 1997 Greater Dolores Action assisted the Town of Dolores with a grant proposal to the Colorado Department of Wildlife "Fishing is Fun" program. The proposal for \$46,000 from the fund was approved. The Town of Dolores contributed \$11,000 of cash and \$37,000 of in-kind services as part of the proposal, bringing the project value to \$94,000.

The principal improvements to Riverside Park in this project were the creation of fish habitat in the section of the river fronting the park and the adjacent Town of Dolores water treatment facility, boulder access steps down to the river and a fishing deck for handicap anglers.

Americorps volunteers assisted in building a 1200 foot trail along the river. Other improvements to the park were the creation of handicap parking near the fishing deck, trash cans, benches, picnic tables, access trails from the access drive/ parking areas, a foot bridge across the storm drain channel and a new sign for Riverside Park on a post which doubles as a flag pole. As part of the re-vegetation scope of the project Silver Queen Maple trees were planted in the southern grassy lawn area to provide shade. Aspen trees were planted along the boarder of Highway 145, and chokecherries and shrub roses were planted in perimeter areas of the park. The funding provided for some improvements to the sprinkler system. For more information on Riverside Park, see Figure 3, Exhibit B, and C-2 included in this article.

Though portable toilets currently serve the park, the Town of Dolores plans to construct a full service bathroom in 2004, which will fulfill a critical need in the park.

FLANDERS PARK

Flanders Park, originally named Central Park, was developed to provide a rest -Stop for the passengers on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad,

In 1914, Reverend C.L. Flanders, pastor of the first Baptist Church, spearheaded a major effort to improve Central Park, and was appointed Superintendent of Public Parks. Because Reverend Flanders' efforts were instrumental to the improvements of the park, the park was renamed Flanders Park in 1929.

A supplement in the August 12, 1938, issue of the Dolores Star described the park as follows:

"Dolores is blessed with one of the prettiest and best-kept recreation and rest grounds to be found anywhere, thanks to untiring efforts over the years of C.L. Flanders, for which it is named."

"Fronting the depot, it was leased by the Town from the railroad company upon the recommendation of Mr. Flanders, some twenty years ago. In 1919, he took personal supervision of its improvements, since transforming it from an alfalfa patch to a shady lawn bordered with flora and shrubbery that is a delight to the eye. Walks were laid out with the assistance of the work gang of the railroad. Mr. Flanders first brought in a number of seedling silver and blue spruce trees from the mountains, which were planted in a double row the full length of the center walk. These trees have grown until now they form a shady bower of a silver sheen that is matchless in its symmetrical beauty."

The park was originally furnished with a flagpole, metal settees, a gazebo, and fencing around the perimeter. The gazebo was supplanted in the 1950's by a building housing the Town Hall and Jail.

Today, Flanders Park continues to be anchored by The Town Hall, and large spruce trees planted by Reverend Flanders. It is also home to the restored Galloping Goose engine #3 a historical museum in a replica building of the historic Galloping Goose Railroad Station,. The south third of the park is devoted to parking, while the north section of the park remains grassy open space. In 2001, Sieglinde Moore and Town Trustee Val Truelsen joined forces to replace the sign and planter in Flanders Park. Greater Dolores Action, with financial support from the Town of Dolores, built a kiosk in the form of a historic railroad water tank in 2004.

In the near future the Galloping Goose Historical Society plans to lay rail along the original route to Mancos from Dolores. In this scenario, the rail would cross the west side of the park, and the Depot Building would once again be a hub of activity. In the interest of revitalizing the park and downtown, some members of the community of Dolores are voicing support for removing the aging town hall building from the park so that Flanders Park is restored to an open town square.

JOE ROWELL PARK

Joe Rowell Park was born as a product of the construction of McPhee Reservoir to the west of the town of Dolores on the Dolores River. Prior to the construction of the reservoir between 1970 and 1986, the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation assumed ownership of areas directly affected and adjacent to the project. One of those areas was the plot of land at the southwest end of Dolores where the town sewer treatment plant was located. That facility was relocated and thus 24 acres along the river became open for re-use. In 1983, the forest service agreed to partner with the Town of Dolores to establish a park.

Joe Rowell Park, named after a prominent citizen of Dolores who was instrumental in the development of the park, is today an active sports park, with ball fields, soccer fields, a field house, a pavilion, a public bathroom, picnic facilities, a playground, basketball court a volleyball pit, and parking areas.

Much of the park was developed with volunteer support from the citizens of Dolores. The ball fields and field house were constructed in part with volunteer labor and contributions from the community. The pavilion, on the southeast end of the park was designed and built by graduate students in the University of Colorado School of Architecture and Planning in the late 1990's. The pavilion is heavily used for group events during the temperate months.

The first improvements in the park were a walking path along the dike in the park, and a handicap-fishing platform paid in part by a Fishing-Is-Fun grant (a federal pass-through fund through the Colorado Department of Wildlife.)

Three parking lots situated at the two ends and the middle of the park are connected to each other, and to highway 145 by short drives. Each lot has capacity for more than twenty vehicles, the middle one having much more space than the outer lots. For sporting events at the ball fields, most vehicles are parked in the center lot, while the side lots are used for picnickers and fishermen.

In 2002, after the town secured another Fishing is Fun grant, fish habitat areas and multiple access points to the river were created in the Dolores river along the east end of Joe Rowell Park. The improvements stretch from the Fourth Street Bridge to the old railroad bridge abutment. McPhee reservoir backs up east of the abutment during good moisture years.

The original play ground structure and swing sets, placed in the northeast section of the park with the basketball and volleyball courts became unsafe through the course of time and had to be removed in the early nineteen-nineties. In 2002 a new playground was erected where the previous playground stood. Construction of the new playground became another large community project. The town of Dolores, with the help of volunteers Gina Kotarski and Wendy Mimiaga, secured a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant. The team also managed the project. While a professional playground

facility designer and manufacturing company planned and organized much of the technical aspects of the project, individuals volunteered time to build the structures, and community businessmen and professionals provided materials and professional services for little or no cost. Today the state of the art playground attracts many families from the surrounding communities. It has become, in its own way, a destination for many young fun seekers and their guardians. For a complete story see article on Ron Kotarski Jr. Memorial Community Playground.

In 2002 the Town of Dolores installed a full service bathroom facility at the North side of the park, to meet the demands posed by users of the playground and pavilion. This facility is open year-round. Sidewalks are installed around the bathrooms that lead to the parking lot and the playground and pavilion. In 2003 several senior students designed and painted murals, depicting local geography and history, on the exterior walls as a service-learning project.

Dolores Parks Committee Mission Statement (DRAFT)

About the Parks Committee:

The Parks Committee advises [and assists] the Town of Dolores Board of Trustees and Staff, providing leadership and guidance for the development, planning, and use of parks and open space within the town limits.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Dolores Parks Committee is to provide safe and well-maintained parks and open spaces, connecting all of our Community with diverse outdoor recreation opportunities that enhance quality of life by promoting mental and physical well-being.

Vision Statement:

The Dolores Parks Committee envisions:

well-maintained parks and open spaces

continued development responsive to community need and input

engaging community in planning process

establishing strategic public and private partnerships to develop programs that promote shared values and that benefit our parks and our community