

**ISLAND GROVE REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – October 2, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Island Grove Advisory Board met on Thursday, October 2, at 4:07 p.m. at the Pawnee Butte Room in the Event Center facility at Island Grove Regional Park.

2. ROLL CALL

Board members are present: Justin Watada, Richard Quaco, Kevin Ross, and Tommy Butler.
Ad Hoc members present: Kim Eastwood, Kali Benson, Benjamin Alexander
Board members absent: Bill Hall and Tim Magnuson
Staff present: Island Grove Division Manager; Casandra Keller.
Public Present: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kevin Ross made a motion to approve the minutes from the June and August meetings. Tommy Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes from the June and August meeting were approved.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

None

5. AD HOC REPORTS

Greeley Kennel Club: Mr. Quaco shared that the Greeley Kennel Club event went very well this year and expressed his satisfaction with its outcome. He announced that the President and CEO of the AKC attended and enjoyed the event, which featured over 250 breeds. He noted that the Junior Showmanship Award was presented to a local youth this year. Mr. Quaco also enthusiastically reported that the shows were broadcast live on ESPN and AKC.TV.

Colorado Farm Show: Kim Eastwood provided an update on the Farm Show, noting that efforts are underway to revamp the website. She announced that the new online vendor portal is live and has been helping streamline the process. In addition, she shared that the Farm Show will feature the Peterson Brothers on Thursday, with the goal of increasing attendance.

Weld County Fair: Mrs. Eastwood also provided a report on the Weld County Fair in Mikayla's absence. She noted that planning is already underway for next year's fair. A recognition night will be held to present Fair and 4-H awards, and the Mardi Gras event is scheduled for November. She also reported that Mikayla will be going on maternity leave soon, with Cheryl stepping in during her absence. Following this, Kali Benson introduced herself as the new Extension Director and expressed her gratitude to the board members for their continued support.

Greeley Stampede: Mr. Watada announced that attendance at the 103rd Greeley Stampede was up by 7% according to Placer AI tracking. He shared that their planning retreat is taking place this week to determine the 2026 dates. Additionally, he noted that concert announcements are planned for January. Mrs. Eastwood added that the Stampede and the Farm Show could collaborate on a joint reveal at the Farm Show if the announcement period aligns with the event.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Cassandra Keller shared updates on the Poudre River Restoration Initiative from the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department (CPRD) perspective.

She also highlighted the FEMA Island Grove flood map prepared by Justin. Mrs. Keller emphasized that Island Grove is one of Greeley's largest economic drivers, hosting an average of 64 hours of events per day by its top 20 clients and non-profits, all of which significantly impact the community.

Tommy added that the key question for the project is whether to move forward or revisit certain steps from Phases 1 and 2. He noted that the project will return to City Council in the coming months, and all parties must be in agreement before Phase 3 can proceed. Cassandra stressed the importance of Island Grove stakeholders identifying critical land areas to ensure they have a role in the master plan.

Board members expressed concerns that public input is not always being considered during forums for the restoration project. Additional concerns were raised about the city prioritizing "wish list" items over necessary restoration projects.

Cassandra also shared research she conducted at Boulder County Fairgrounds and Adams County Fairgrounds, both located in floodplains, where she observed their active involvement in restoration efforts such as stormwater upgrades.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Staff Report

Cassandra Keller, Division Manager, announced that Island Grove has had a strong year and is reinvesting in projects that had previously been postponed.

She provided updates on several ongoing initiatives, including plans to install a new elevator in the arena to make the suites rentable for events, the addition of security cameras across the grounds to address theft concerns, the installation of water bottle fillers this week, and design work for chillers for the north and south units also underway this week.

Lastly, Ms. Keller introduced Blanca Avalos as the new Event Scheduling Coordinator and announced her appointment as Secretary of the Advisory Board.

b. Master Plan Update

Ms. Keller announced that the first pre-proposal conference was held on October 1, where the scope of work was clarified. She noted that many questions were asked with 40 people in attendance representing over 30 companies. Leading up to the conference, 143 people had viewed the project information.

Ms. Keller reported that strong questions were asked and shared that the goal is to have a contractor on board by December 5, with the project set to kick off in January 2026 and be completed by December 2026. She added that bids will close on October 27, with scoring scheduled for November 20.

Ms. Keller explained that the process will include engaging different stakeholders individually, with the intent of narrowing the focus before meshing ideas together. She also emphasized the importance of increased community outreach, including a greater role in tabling at events. She described the two project tracks: (1) the Optimization Track, which addresses current improvements and operational decisions, and (2) the Vision Track, which will establish a 20-year plan identifying long-term priorities and key areas of focus.

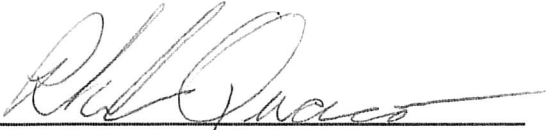
Dick added that Island Grove's mission is to meet the needs of the community and county, serving as a place where community members pursue their hobbies. He stressed that competition should be considered when determining the facility's long-term focus.

8. **NEXT MEETING** – December 4th. Casandra noted that a Doodle poll will be sent out to determine a new date that works best for everyone, as December 4th is no longer suitable.

9. **ADJOURNMENT -**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Richard Quaco - Chair

Signed by:



Casandra Keller – IG Division Manager