

Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular meeting at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 100 North Center Street, on November 10, 2005.

Members Present:

LeRoy Brady
John Dyer
Russ Gillard
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Don Goodrum
David Martinez
Walter "Bud" Page, Jr.

Staff Present:

Bob Gadberry
Mark Gallo
Mike Holste
Ray Kaniut
Tiffany Krahenbuhl
Mary Lindemuth
Andrea Moore
Terri Palmberg
Diane Rogers
Jordan Stradling
Bob White
Sherry Woodley

Members Absent:

Jeff Kirk, excused
Dina Lopez, excused
Bernadine Mooney, excused
Marilyn Wilson, excused

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Bud Page, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

John Dyer made a motion, Connie Gullatt-Whiteman seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 13, 2005.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Chair's Comments

Mr. Page queried Board members about having a regular meeting in December. It was the consensus of members present that the Board not meet in December.

Adult Sports Programs

Ray Kaniut reported that the adult sports program offers seven different sports and operates five sports complexes. The City of Mesa also collaborates with Mesa Public Schools to utilize available gym space for basketball leagues. The goal of the adult sports program is to offer a variety of fun, affordable, and high quality leagues/tournaments to the public.

Tiffany Krahenbuhl reported that adult flag football consists of fall, winter, and spring leagues for 88 teams at the Riverview Soccer field for ages 16 years and older. The average flag football game is one hour in length and has three officials. The program offers two classifications of play based on experience level.

The senior softball program consists of a winter league for ages 50 years and older for 38 teams. The average softball game is one hour and has one official. The program offers a variety of classifications of league play based on experience.

The adult co-recreational soccer program consists of fall, spring, and summer leagues for 50 teams at the Red Mountain Soccer Complex for ages 16 years and older. The average soccer

game is two hours in length and has two officials. The program offers recreational and competitive levels of play based on level of experience.

Jordan Stradling reported that the adult softball program consists of fall, winter, spring, and summer leagues for 1,329 teams at Red Mountain, Riverview, Skyline, Kleinman, and Ellsworth softball fields. The average softball game is one hour and has one official. The program offers a variety of classifications of league play based on competition level.

Mark Gallo reported that the adult baseball program consists of fall, spring, and summer leagues for 51 teams at the Red Mountain Baseball Complex for ages 16 years and older. The average baseball game is 2.5 hours in length and has two officials.

The adult basketball program consists of winter, spring, and summer leagues for 197 teams at five City and school gyms for ages 16 years and older. The average basketball game is one hour in length and has two officials. The program offers a variety of classifications of league play based on experience level.

The adult volleyball program consists of fall, winter, spring, and summer leagues for 119 teams at the Broadway Recreation Center and Jefferson Recreation Center for ages 16 years and older. The average volleyball game is one hour in length and has one official. Recreational and competitive leagues are offered to participants based on experience level.

Russ Gillard asked about the effect of fee increases on the adult sports program.

Mr. Stradling replied that participation has decreased somewhat. However, Mesa remains competitive with other Valley cities.

Don Goodrum asked if the programs were at capacity.

Mr. Stradling replied that about 75 more teams could be accommodated; however, that would put a strain on staff and resources.

Mr. Goodrum suggested renting out the fields when they are not in use.

Mr. Gallo reported that the California Angels will be leaving Mesa soon and facilities and fields will be available for rental and use by Little League at Gene Autry Park.

Mr. Page asked about the types of bats used.

Mr. Stradling replied that the City uses bats that are on the approved list of ASA (Amateur Softball Association). Citizens are given the ASA website address when they call.

Mr. Dyer suggested that the website address be placed on the league roster/application.

Mr. Gallo concluded by saying that he, Mr. Stradling, and Ms. Krahenbuhl work together as a team. Between the three of them, there is 45 years of experience in adult sports.

Mr. Dyer thanked the adult sports staff for their efforts and said they have always been easy to work with. He asked when the Angels would be leaving Mesa.

Bob White said that the relocation is contingent on the Tempe site being completed.

David Martinez asked about the biggest challenge to the adult sports program.

Mr. Gallo replied that it is having to increase the fees for participation in the program.

Mr. Martinez asked why it is necessary to increase the fees.

Mr. Gallo replied that costs have increased for maintenance and officials.

Board Work Plan

Mr. White said that feedback given by Board members in September will be used to develop the work plan. He and Mr. Page will meet and an initial work plan will be sent to Board members for feedback.

Fees and Charges Subcommittee

Mary Lindemuth advised that the fees and charges subcommittee will meet on November 16, 2005. Benchmark and adjustment forms are due from staff on November 18.

Mr. Page asked if fee increases will be necessary.

Sherry Woodley replied that increases will be recommended for several program areas.

Mr. Martinez asked if the revenue represents a break even cost.

Ms. Woodley replied that some of the more profitable sports are carrying the non-profitable sports; the break even point is getting close.

Mr. White said adult sports also includes tournaments and field rentals, which offsets some of the costs. There are other revenue sources to balance the costs.

Mr. Martinez asked if the cost for utilities used for sports program has increased.

Ms. Woodley replied that those costs have also increased, and the division is looking at specific utility costs at parks and facilities to determine ways to conserve.

Meetings and/or Events Attended

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman reported that she attended the Mesa Pow Wow. It was a good event.

Mr. Page reported that he attended the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled dinner on October 15. Also attending were Bob White and Mike Holste.

Staff Updates

Mr. Holste thanked the adult sports staff for their reports; the size and quality of the programs are outstanding. He reported that upcoming special events include the Veterans Day Parade on November 11 and Merry Main Street on December 2. Trolley hosts are needed for Merry Main Street; Board members willing to serve as hosts should contact Mr. Holste.

Mr. White reported that a small plane crashed the previous afternoon at Autry Park. He thanked staff who were on-site and kept participants away from the danger area.

Ms. Woodley reported that a meeting was recently held with youth sports organizations representatives. The representatives are very involved and dedicated.

Andrea Moore presented updates on construction projects:

- About 1,000 volunteers from various stakes participated in the Lehi trail event
- Construction will begin soon on the Consolidated Canal multi-use path, 8th Street to Lindsay
- Westwood High School fields have been reconfigured
- Under construction are playground renovations at Sherwood and Mountain View parks and the parking lot at Holmes Park
- The new aquatic facilities at Carson and Smith should be open by December 2006

Ms. Moore also reported that the City is in the process of acquiring land adjacent to Zaharis Elementary School.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman thanked maintenance staff for keeping the parks so well maintained. She lives near Shepherders Park and appreciates the cleanliness.

Ms. Palmberg presented the following reports:

- Carson Pool will probably close for summer 2006. There will be a 30-day construction tear-out which will be completed during non-school time. Aquatic program participants will be bussed to other sites.
- The Bricks Program is moving forward. The Foundation will have a booth at Merry Main Street and will provide information about this program and other recreation programs.
- Staff are working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Autry Tennis Center. The RFP should be on the street in January. If any proposals are received, a review committee will be created to evaluate the proposals. The review committee will include Board members. The City will not sell Autry Tennis Center, but will lease it.
- Vandalism has significantly increased over the past few months at parks and facilities. Staff believes it is because of "lack of eyes." With reduced hours, Park Ranger staff start their work day at 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.; it used to be 6:00 a.m. Also, rangers used to patrol near bus stops, but don't now. The City is losing daytime surveillance; the Mesa Police Department has to be first responder. Staff will have a meeting with the new chief of police to discuss these issues.

Director's Report

Mr. White presented the following reports:

- The new City Manager for the City of Mesa will be Chris Brady. Mr. Brady comes to Mesa from San Antonio. The City received 46 applications from 22 states for this position.
- The Mesa HoHoKams recently donated a total of \$10,000 for parks and recreation youth programs. The Making Waves program received \$5,000 and renovations of baseball/softball infields at several junior high sites received \$5,000
- The City of Mesa released a management policy entitled "Reduction in Work Force." The work environment is getting precarious and City staff are uneasy.
- City Council will be readdressing the taxing issues and bond program and will discuss what may or may not go on the ballot in May.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob White
Parks and Recreation Director