

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session at the Parks and Recreation office at 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on May 8, 2013.

Members Present:

Kent Bulkley (Chair)
Milt Fort
Jennifer Madsen
David Martinez
Bert Millet
Kathleen Rahn
Niki Tapia
Ron Wills
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

Michael Holste
Leslie Clark
Jo Donovan
Stacy Thompson

John Wesley, Planning
Tom Ellsworth, Planning

Members Absent:

Roel Dilig
John Duclos

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Kent Bulkley, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bulkley asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the March 13, 2013 Parks Board meeting. Ms. Kathleen Rahn made a motion, Mr. Ron Wills seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments: - None

Presentation on the City of Mesa General Plan – John Wesley, Planning Director:

Ms. Rahn who participates on the City of Mesa General Plan Committee introduced Mr. Wesley and stated that there had been 6 public meetings around Mesa and that the General Plan Committee had received many positive comments and has covered a large amount of information about the City. Mr. Wesley introduced Mr. Tom Ellsworth, Senior Planner with the Planning Department who is tasked with overseeing the General Plan would be assisting with the presentation. Currently the committee is getting ready to start writing the plan so it is a good time to share this information with the Board and get any comments that they may have.

Mr. Wesley explained what the General Plan is, and that it is required by the State and to be approved by the voters every 10 years. State Statutes require topics to include: land use, circulation, open space, growth, environmental planning, cost of development, water resources, conservation, recreation, public services and facilities, housing, rehabilitation and redevelopment, safety, bicycling, neighborhood preservation and revitalization, and energy. Currently the committee is coordinating with Transportation, Transit and Parks for updates and the Plan is scheduled to go on the November 2014 ballot for adoption.

Mr. Wesley shared some background on how much a community can change over 30 years and shared some photographs of the City throughout the last 30 years. It is estimated that by 2040 there will be approximately 635,000 residents which is an increase of 165,000 new residents.

He shared that there are several factors that will impact land development over the next 30 years, changing demographics due to 76 million baby boomers across the nation; 75-80 million echo boomers across the nation, and by 2042 it is estimated that there will be no majority race. Mr. Wesley also shared that over the next 30 years the rise in single person households will be increased to over 50%.

Through the completion of approximately 150 surveys received by the Committee the Community would like to see the City maintain existing neighborhoods, provide quality open spaces and healthy living environments, become more pedestrian friendly, continue to improve the economic base, expand higher education opportunities and provide high quality arts and culture programs, maintain unique areas of Mesa and create more recognizable neighborhoods, expand transportation and transit options and develop vacant properties, maintain downtown as the primary urban core and improve the quality of architecture in the built environment. Mr. Bulkley asked as to why there was such a low amount of surveys received, Mr. Wesley answered that he agrees it is a low number but that the answers were consistent across the surveys. Ms. Rahn also mentioned that the General Plan Committee is made up of a representative from each of the City's Advisory Committees and each representative brings feedback from each of their areas to contribute the wants and needs of the Community. Mr. Wesley also mentioned that they will continue to get comments throughout the process and that there will be additional meetings for the public to comment and respond.

Mr. Wesley shared several of the Community Vision Statements that the Committee is working on and that the focus for the General Plan Update is to replace the image of a sprawling "boomburg" with a desired future of a City that is recognizable with vibrant, stable, safe neighborhoods with a sense of place, a stable, diverse economy and rich public spaces and high quality cultural amenities.

The Committee has created a new catch phrase for the Plan "The Magic of the City" and stated that the key issues will be maintaining a variety of great neighborhoods, growing and maintaining a stable, diverse economic base, creating a public infrastructure in support of a 21st Century City, and implementing and administering the Plan.

Adult Lap Swim Program – Bert Millett, Board Member

Mr. Millett mentioned that he felt that there were residents in the City that really enjoy swimming and that there are some things that are difficult to do in a private pool; lap swimming, water polo, synchronized swimming, etc. and that is what is nice about Mesa that there are plenty of public pools. Mr. Millett explained that he felt that one of the best ideas that the City has had was to invest in the infrastructure of the swimming pools to make quite a few of them world class facilities. He mentioned that we were lucky to attract national meets and events.

Mr. Millett was thrilled when the lap program was introduced approximately a year ago and he felt that it was a great addition to aquatics programs. He was disappointed when the lap program was recently curtailed for the public and staff explained to him with the recent budget constraints the hours on the lap program had to be limited. Mr. Millett was hoping that we can encourage the adult lap swimming instead of curtailing them going into summer. Mr. Millett also mentioned that he was concerned that they were also removing the option of the punch ticket which allows the public to purchase a punch ticket for lap swimming.

Mr. Bulkley mentioned that he had been following the email discussions and he felt that he would be interested in an explanation from staff as to what the priorities are from public use compared to club use as to why this has been curtailed. Mr. David Martinez asked what the difference was between some of the other sports programs with regards to priority when

compared to aquatics priority use, he understood that during the winter months there would be less use, but also wondered why it was being curtailed in the summer.

Mr. Michael Holste, Assistant Director, responded that during the period of Memorial Day to Labor Day that the pool use where lap swimming is being held is extremely busy with swim lesson programs. The reason that lap swim was introduced to the aquatics program was that there were lifeguards on the deck when private user groups were in the pool so it was felt that a lap swimming program would be a good idea. With the budget constraints PRCF no longer has the budget to provide lifeguards for those private user groups so they are now being required to pay to have the lifeguards present during the time they have their group programs so we could no longer justify allowing the public to come in when the private groups are being charged the lifeguard fee. The lap swimming program was actually a program that was never budgeted within PRCF. Each Department has been tasked with reducing their budget by 1%-3% so therefore some of the program areas are being reduced to accomplish this. Ms. Rahn asked if there was a possibility to charge an additional fee to continue to allow lap swimming. Mr. Holste mentioned that this is an idea that is being looked into. Mr. Martinez said that the explanation Mr. Holste gave made sense and he understood the reasons for the program to be curtailed. Mr. Wills explained that he does swim with one of the user groups and that during the summer the pools are extremely busy. Mr. Holste explained that PRCF does enjoy being able to offer the lap swimming so they will continue to look at the program.

Chair Comments: Mr. Bulkley mentioned that he had attended the Master's Event out at Skyline Aquatics facility and that he enjoyed Mr. Hogan's comments.

Director's Comments – Michael Holste, Assistant Director

- Mr. Holste explained that Mr. Heirshberg expressed his regret for not being in attendance.
- Mr. Holste explained that Mr. Heirshberg made his Budget presentation to Council and that it was recognized that during the budget presentation that it hit on a number of positive issues within the Department. Mr. Holste went through the presentation with the Board and Stacy Thompson assisted with explaining the upcoming proposed budget.
- Mr. Holste shared the new PRCF branding logo "Your Place to Play."
- Active will be the new registration software starting in the fall during the first season we will be using RecTrac through the fall season.
- Bond Update: All scheduled projects are going as planned. In the fall there will be public meetings held and all participants that attended the iMesa meetings that supplied us with their email addresses will be contacted regarding when and where these meetings will be held. Mr. Holste shared with the staff the 2012 Parks Capital Improvement Program timeline.
- Two new disc golf courses have been set-up at Red Mountain Park, a competitive course and a beginner's course.
- Hohokam is currently running as scheduled with Summer Baseball and will end their season with Boston Pops and then they will begin the construction to accommodate the Oakland A's.
- Eastmark which is located at the old GM proving grounds has turned over their 10 acre park to PRCF Parks Maintenance.
- Concerts at the Amphitheater are ramping up with plenty of shows occurring throughout the summer and fall. Van's Warp Tour is at the end of June at Quail Run Park and previously this was held on the Westside.

- Mr. Holste invited the Board to attend any of the summer programs or aquatic programs during the summer and if they will contact Mr. Holste he will be happy to take them around.
- Mr. Holste asked the Board if they would like to cancel the July 10th meeting and it was agreed to cancel the July meeting.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members:

Ms. Madsen attended the Celebrate Mesa.

Ms. Tapia attended the Councilmember Somers Volunteer Reception.

Mr. Martinez attended the Hershey Track and Field event and Splish Splash and Dash at Skyline.

Mr. Millett attended Celebrate Mesa.

Ms. Rahn attended the Crescent Crown Open House and the General Plan planning meeting.

Mr. Bulkley attended the Grand Prix and Councilmember Somers Volunteer Reception.

Mr. Bulkley asked if there were any other items for discussion; the Board had no additional comments. Mr. Martinez made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Wills seconded, and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director