

## **Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a special session at Kleinman Park, 710 S. Extension, Mesa on May 22, 2007.

**Members Present:**

Connie Gullatt-Whiteman  
Russ Gillard  
Marilyn Wilson  
David Martinez  
Jeff Kirk  
Dina Lopez  
LeRoy Brady  
Reggie Dye

**Members Absent:**

Bud Page, excused  
Don Goodrum, excused

**Staff Present:**

Rhett Evans  
Dawn Bies  
Mike Holste  
J. D. Dockstader  
Kelly Rafferty  
Andrea Moore  
Rochelle Rotert  
Don Flavell  
Larry Alexander  
Bob Huhn  
Sherry Woodley  
Dave Dunne  
Bryan Raines  
Scot Rigby

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Connie Gullatt-Whiteman, Co-Chair. Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman welcomed staff and guests. Rhett Evans introduced Scot Rigby from the City Manager's office.

### **Overview of Waveyard /Timeline Presentation**

Scot Rigby gave a brief overview of the Waveyard project and timeline. He said the City was committed to relocate the Riverview Park ballfields in west Mesa. He stated that a Council Action Item was scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> regarding zoning, Master Plan and establishing a development agreement with the Waveyard developers. A public election scheduled for November 2007.

### **Preliminary Options for Relocating Riverview Ballfields**

Rhett Evans shared usage information and some proposed development options at Riverview and Kleinman Parks, pointing out current amenities and proposed changes for both parks.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked if the skate park would be replaced with another amenity after working so hard to get the skate park at Kleinman. Mr. Evans informed the Board that since Reed Skate Park became an "all wheels park", usage at Kleinman Wheels Court had declined, however, further discussions needed to be held regarding which amenities to relocate.

Mr. Evans discussed the various reconfiguration maps for Kleinman Park and presented some of the challenges and opportunities for improvement to amenities at that location.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked if there were other parks in Mesa with lakes and how they work out for the residents.

Mr. Evans noted the parks that have lakes were Dobson Ranch, Carriage Lane and Riverview and stated there are no major safety issues with the lakes.

Sherry Woodley informed the Board that the lake at Riverview Park runs the irrigation system at that park.

Dina Lopez asked about available parking at Kleinman Park. Mr. Evans stated that additional consideration needed to be given to this issue.

Mr. Evans told the Board there was a five-acre parcel of land at McKellips and Center that the City currently owns, which would only be large enough for one ball field to be constructed on. He mentioned that staff is looking at sites around the City with vacant land to purchase.

David Martinez asked if the population that was using Riverview Park was from the West Valley or East Valley and if the usage was due to the proximity of the 202 freeway next to the park. Mr. Evans said teams were coming from all over to play in tournaments at Riverview Park, and further research in this area needed by be completed by staff.

Russ Gillard asked if the demand for fields would be a problem and if it could be met by moving games to Red Mountain. Mr. Evans answered that Riverview was booked six days a week and it could be a problem. Mike Holste added that fourteen fields were used every night of the week and the City would need additional fields to increase usage.

Marilyn Wilson asked if any formal input had been received from participants that use that park. Mr. Evans said they were invited to the neighborhood meeting this evening.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked what the Parks Department would get from Waveyard, whether the money would go to the Parks Department since they could be losing amenities. Mr. Evans deferred to Mr. Rigby. Mr. Rigby said the City would receive \$30 million for the sale of the land, with \$10 million at the close of escrow to allow staff to rebuild ballfields. He suggested getting a list of priorities together for West Mesa to present to City Council. Mr. Martinez stated that it was not an equal trade for the loss of a golf course and open space. He asked if future revenue would be set aside for Parks. Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman added that the City was lagging in adding parkland already and would be faced with losing a golf course. She stated that funds would be needed to relocate the golf course or to maintain the existing golf course with increased usage.

LeRoy Brady asked about the area on the map that Mr. Rigby had shown, particularly the acreage along 8<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated that the land becomes less valuable than if put with the other reconfigured area at Riverview and that if left along 8<sup>th</sup> Street as shown, the area could be needed for future roadway expansion due to the project, which would cause the Parks Department to lose even more acreage.

## **Q & A/Public Comments**

Marilynn Wennerstrom stated that both a car dealership and Waveyard proposals were presented in September 2006. She asked whose idea it was to move the Riverview Park ballfields to another pre-existing park, as it was never mentioned previously. She further stated that if land is purchased with federal funds it must be replaced or the funds would have to be paid back. She presented the Board with a letter from 1999 regarding the Cardinals Stadium, which confirmed this information. She feels that if Mesa cannot replace the ballfields they should cancel the project. Ms. Wennerstrom spoke about the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to educate themselves about the issues that affect Parks & Recreation and submitted a copy of these responsibilities to the Board.

Nate Caine felt Mr. Rigby was providing fraudulent information to the citizens because the map he was using was different from information he had received that same day from the City regarding the scope of the Waveyard project. He said that 22.2 acres is not half of the current 51 acres at Riverview Park, as the City has suggested Waveyard would be taking. He said it is a net loss of 25 acres of parkland. He asked what Waveyard is doing about street widening and what happens to the 25 acres of green space in West Mesa. Mr. Rigby responded that Mesa may use the money elsewhere as deemed necessary. Mr. Caine felt that this plan to relocate ballfields to Kleinman Park would cause it to become a lock down facility and called this project a "complete destruction" of Kleinman Park.

Robert Meyers stated he lives in the Riverview Park area and his family has used the park. He felt that the City would be taking amenities away by moving the ballfields and ramadas. He said putting extra ballfields at Riverview Park, taking out ramadas where large groups gather would require more parking.

Jason Massad asked if the Riverview Park option was in conjunction with Kleinman Park and asked about the linear park along 8<sup>th</sup> Street that Mr. Rigby had mentioned previously.

Charmaine McCleve stated that she was very disappointed that the Parks Board and city employees have not seen the Waveyard presentation and felt they could not make a good decision on what to do with the ballfields without seeing the presentation.

Mr. Evans summarized the concerns of the citizens present:

- Value of the trade
- Golf course resources going back into the golf system
- The strip of land along 8<sup>th</sup> street (linear park)
- Concern about losing amenities at Riverview Park
- Kleinman Park becoming a lock down facility and how it would be programmed for use

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhett Evans  
Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department Director