

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 November 13, 2013.

Members Present:

Kent Bulkley
John Duclos
Jennifer Madsen
Wayne Manske
Bert Millet
Kathleen Rahn
Niki Tapia
Ron Wills

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Michael Holste
Leslie Clark
Tammy Davenport
Jo Donovan
Mark Foote

John Wesley, Planning Dept.
Bud Page, Hohokams

Members Absent:

Roel Dilig
Milt Fort
Mark Yarbrough

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Ron Wills, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wills asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the September 11, 2013 Parks Board meeting. Kent Bulkley made a motion to approve with corrections, Wayne Manske seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments – None

Presentation by the Mesa HoHoKams to Making Waves and Youth Sports Programs -

Bud Page with the Mesa HoHoKams made a presentation of two checks for \$2,500 each to Mark Foote for the Making Waves Aquatics Program and the Youth Sports Programs.

Presentation of outgoing Parks Board Member David Martinez –

Mr. Marc Heirshberg and Mr. Mike Holste presented outgoing Parks Board Member David Martinez with a plaque thanking him for his service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Committee.

Appointment of a Fees and Charges Subcommittee -

Mr. Holste explained that every year our Fees and Charges are reviewed, staff surveys neighboring communities to stay comparable. Mr. Holste reminded the Board that the City does “ranges” for most of the fees, and as long as we stay within those ranges we do not need to make any changes to those fees. Mr. Holste explained that the Subcommittee will be a group of three (3) Board members that would meet with Mr. Heirshberg, Mr. Holste, Assistant Director; and Tammy Davenport, Fiscal Analyst for PRCF. The subcommittee would present to the full

Board at the January meeting for approval and then send the recommendation to City Council Audit and Finance Committee and then on to full City Council.

Mr. Wills asked for 3 volunteers, Kent Bulkley, Ron Wills and Wayne Manske volunteered and were appointed to the Fees and Charges Subcommittee they will meet the first week in December.

Update on the City of Mesa General Plan – John Wesley, Planning

Mr. Wesley thanked the Board for allowing him to return and share the status of the Mesa General Plan. He reminded the Board that per State Statute the Plan is required to be updated every 10 years. He shared that some of the biggest areas of growth are out east in the Gateway areas, for both residential and jobs. It was stated that with the population of Mesa the citizen want to have a variety of areas to live, shop, and work, and that is what the General Plan is working on creating. The General Plan document is currently available on the website and anyone can go out and review where it stands currently. The area that Mr. Wesley wanted to discuss was Transforming Neighborhoods, with the growth of the City, how do we assist neighborhoods in maintaining their home value, so people want to invest in the neighborhoods. That is where the Parks and Recreation Department plays into the mix, by providing quality parks and areas to recreate. The strategy is to use the Gold Medal Plan that parks currently has in place to emphasis the Public spaces to create rich cultural amenities. One of the biggest changes with the latest General Plan is to use a more general approach to the layout of the City. Where the Plan is today is a draft plan, the Committee is taking the plan around to neighborhood and public meetings to get input, and then make any modifications by the end of January; it will then go through a mandatory 60 day review and the final plan will be on the ballot on November, 2014. Mr. Wesley will come back during the March Parks Board meeting to request an endorsement from the Board.

Chair's Comments

- Mr. Wills reminded the Board to review and complete the Ethics for Board Members, that were sent out to the Board early in October.

Director's Comments

- Mr. Heirshberg updated the Board on the status of the Parks Bond. There have been numerous public meetings and stakeholder meeting; he thanked those that had taken the time to attend those meetings. The meetings have all been well attended, as well as interesting comments that have been received. Some of the most controversial sites prior to the Bond Election were McKellips and Ellsworth, and now with the changes that were suggested by the public the neighborhood is on board with the project. Next scheduled meeting are November 20th with the Stakeholders for the Sports Groups, and Mark Yarborough will be representing the Parks Board, they will discuss in particular Mesa Jr. High conversion sight as well as Kleinman and Powell Jr. High sites. The second meeting at Zaharis Elementary to discuss the McKellips and Ellsworth site is on December 3rd, to discuss the specific education/play nodes at the sight. There will also be a meeting on December 10th for the Mesa High School Aquatics Center. Mr. Wills asked if there had been any changes made with any of the projects due to requests from the public. Mr. Heirshberg explained that McKellips and Ellsworth is a perfect example of that, the public had complained that they felt there was an issue with parking so staff worked with Zaharis Elementary to utilize their driveway to move the parking. Another example was the park at McDowell and Recker, some of the neighbors asked one of the activity areas be relocated further away from their homes. One of the items that staff

has been very conscious of is when a park is being built next to existing residential, that at least there is a buffer around the neighborhood. At the McDowell and Recker location staff has gotten the biking community involved to assist with some clean-up.

- Riverview Update: The softball complex at Riverview will now be multi-use sport fields.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Manske shared with the Board information from the Pioneer Park Shareholders meeting he attended. He passed out an article that pertained to the history of the train. The meeting was very interesting; the stakeholders included Daughters of the Pioneers; Train Committee; Mesa East Valley Veterans; and East Valley Horseshoe Club. There were discussions regarding arboretum versus botanical gardens, and since the concept of the meeting was to throw out ideas, there was a large discussion regarding this. There has been \$3 Million designated for the Pioneer Park renovations. Mr. Heirshberg explained that the focus is to create a master plan as to where the stakeholders would like to go with the renovations.

Mr. Wills attended the McDowell and Recker Park public meeting, and attended several of the swim meets.

Mr. Millett attended the Foundations Mesa Sprint Triathlon and wanted to give a big thanks to Leslie Clark for all the hard work she does for the Parks Foundation.

Ms. Rahn volunteered at the Mesa Sprint Triathlon and attended the Recker and McDowell Public Meeting.

Mr. Bulkley attended the Celebrate Mesa event and volunteered at the Mesa Sprint Triathlon.

Mr. Duclos attended the McKellips and Ellsworth Public Meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director