

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation 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 April 10, 2008.

Members Present:

Frank Alger
Russ Gillard
Don Goodrum
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Walter "Bud" Page, Jr.
Marilyn Wilson
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

Darla Armfield
Larry Alexander
Dawn Bies
Jerry Bradney
Sue Deck
J.D. Dockstader
Rhett Evans

Dale Furnas
Mike Holste
Andrea Moore
Beverlee Nielsen
Kelly Rafferty
Rochelle Rotert
Sherry Woodley

Members Absent:

Brian Etheridge, excused
Dina Lopez, excused
David Martinez, excused
Michelle Udall, excused

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Connie Gullatt-Whiteman, Chair.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman introduced Mark Yarbrough to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the March 13, 2008 meeting. Frank Alger made a motion, Russ Gillard seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes as written.

Public Comments

None.

Hear update on Council's decision for Pioneer Park locomotive

Mike Holste told the Board that City Council had extended the deadline for the Save the Train citizens group until May 29, 2008 to raise funds to keep the train in Mesa. A stipulation was added that the group needed to raise an additional \$5,000, to bring the total to \$15,000, and make the donations refundable.

Mr. Gillard asked what the group would do if the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation decided that they no longer wanted to run this campaign. Rhett Evans replied that the group would have to find a new 501(c) 3 sponsor group or start one themselves. Mr. Gillard added that refunding the donations was a reversal of the original instructions from Council for the citizens group.

Mr. Alger asked if the train would be fenced if it were moved to another area within Pioneer Park. Sherry Woodley said that if the train were moved within the park there would most likely be ornamental chain rope fencing surrounding the train.

Hear update on PRCF FY 08-09 budget reductions

Mr. Evans showed the Board the PRCF Budget presentation that was given to City Council. He told the Board that City management had directed PRCF staff to cut approximately \$1 million out of the proposed \$33 million FY 08/09 PRCF budget.

Mr. Evans explained that proposed budget adjustments included the examination of new revenue streams, which included a new Arizona Rattlers lease of Gene Autry Park and the newly created Sports Business Development area. He stated that decisions were made to increase fees and charges for certain programs and classes and to maintain funding for parks maintenance. Mr. Evans went on to say that the proposed \$1 million budget reductions included the loss of 17.5 FTEs and the following additional reductions:

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| • Utility cost savings | \$ 23,000 |
| • Eliminate vacant/frozen positions & adjust non-benefited, seasonal pay | 226,000 |
| • Closure of two pools | 295,000 |
| • Summer recreation sites reduced from 32 to 20 | 169,000 |
| • After school program sites reduced from 32 to 20 | 60,000 |
| • Eliminate Jr. High open gym program | 39,000 |
| • Eliminate Red Mtn. Multigenerational Center drop-in program | 62,000 |
| • Close Washington Activity Center | 131,000 |

A discussion ensued regarding the various budget reductions. Mr. Evans told the Board that the final FY 08/09 budget was scheduled to be adopted by Council on June 23rd.

Discussion on revising the PRCF Department Master Plan

Andrea Moore led a discussion on revising the PRCF Master Plan. She proposed that the Board focus on revising targets for new facilities and examining development potential for undeveloped park land. Future discussions can focus on program priorities to create a shorter-term strategic plan. The Board concurred and Ms. Moore presented the Board with maps of Mesa and explained that staff had divided the City into smaller sections in order for the Board to discuss one area at each meeting until the entire City had been covered. The first area discussed was Northwest Mesa. An assumption is made that Riverview Golf Course and softball complex have been sold to make way for Waveyard. The following list of revisions were agreed to by the Board for the Northwest section, understanding that these items may be changed again after the entire City is reviewed and prior to making final revisions to the PRCF Master Plan:

- Proposed Community Park targets (yellow circles) were removed
- Staff will ask the West Main Street Area Plan Committee for neighborhood park suggestions for the area bordered by University to Main and Tempe Canal to Alma School. At least one neighborhood park should be added to this area.
- Beverly Park site to be reviewed for possible sale of parcel
- Proposed Recreation Center (orange circle) was removed
- Use new Kino Aquatic Center classroom as a recreation program site
- Add pocket parks to area bordered by Horne to Gilbert Roads and the 202 Freeway and Main Street
- Upgrade basins in area bordered by Horne to Gilbert Roads and the 202 Freeway and Main Street
- Encourage multiuse path development

Chair Comments

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman welcomed Mark Yarbrough to the Board and invited him to give some information on his background. Mr. Yarbrough told the Board that his background was in youth sports and that he is active in the community in the areas of parks and recreation and neighborhood outreach.

Director's Comments

- Calendar of Events – A summer TimeOut brochure was given to all Board members, which includes class offerings from both Parks and Recreation and Mesa Arts Center. Mr. Evans mentioned the following important dates:

April 18	Registration begins for swim lessons/swim teams
April 19	April Pools Day (annual Aquatics season kick-off event) at Shepherd Pool, from 1-4 p.m.
April 25	Registration begins - Summer programs
April 26	Fit City's running of the bases at Hohokam Stadium
- Board Meeting Time Change – Mr. Evans told the Board he wanted to give them one more opportunity to change the time of the monthly meeting, although keeping it in the second week of the month. He suggested either early morning or late afternoon to accommodate member schedules. After numerous times and days were discussed, it was decided that Dawn Bies would send a survey to the Board, with a few dates/times listed, asking them to select their preferred time/date.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Bud Page attended several Chicago Cubs Spring Training games as a member of the Mesa HoHoKam organization. He added that it had been a very successful Spring Training season.

Mr. Gillard encouraged the Board to attend the "Man's Best Friend" (MBF) event, the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation's fundraiser at Hohokam Stadium on April 26th. He said it would take place immediately after the Fit City event and admission is free. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used towards a new off-leash dog park.

Mr. Alger announced that the Downtown Mesa Association will be holding Friday Night Out on April 11th and Western Days will be on Saturday evening, April 12th.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Rhett Evans
Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department Director