

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session at Parks and Recreation, 200 South Center Street, Mesa, on May 11, 2011.

Members Present:

Kent Bulkley
Milt Fort
Steve Ikeda
David Martinez
Kathleen Rahn
Marilyn Wilson
Ron Wills
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

Dawn Bies
Stacy Cheaney-Thompson
Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Kathy Macdonald
Andrea Moore

Members Absent:

Don Goodrum, excused
Bert Millett, excused
Matt Shaffer, excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Mark Yarbrough, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Yarbrough asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the March 9, 2011 Parks Board meeting. Marilyn Wilson made a motion, Kent Bulkley seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments

Kathy Macdonald, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, shared information on iMesa with the Board. She told the Board that iMesa is a place for citizens to post ideas and vote on ideas to be considered by the City for implementation. She added that villages were created in iMesa to help organize issues specific to certain areas of the City.

Ms. Macdonald suggested the Board members read the ideas posted and provide their own input. It was requested that employees and/or Board members steer people to the iMesa website.

Hear information and take action on PRCF Guideline: Management of Sports Fields

Mike Holste went over the PRCF guideline "Management of Sports Fields" with the Board.

Highlights include:

- Rating system to determine the priority of usage for sports complexes and public use fields.
- General reservation policies.
- Facility deposits, comparable or less than other valley cities.

Mr. Bulkley asked for examples of users. Mr. Holste said users consisted of youth tournaments (USSSA, ASA, Triple Crown), club teams (14u), Men's Senior Baseball League (MSBL), and the Russ Matt Collegiate Softball tournament, which have a substantial economic impact on Mesa.

Mr. Yarbrough asked about acceptable play groups for Countryside Park. Mr. Holste said users included little league baseball, football and soccer groups with several groups using the fields at the same time. This type of use falls within the "Policy and Procedures for Community Youth Group Field Assignments" that the Parks Board adopted in January 2011.

Mr. Yarbrough asked for a motion for approval of "PRCF Guideline: Management of Sports Fields." Kathleen Rahn made a motion, Milt Fort seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the guideline.

Hear update on Golden Hills Park playground build

Andrea Moore gave the Board a brief update on the Golden Hills Park playground build. She said the build was scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2011 beginning at 6:30 a.m. She said donations of cash, food and materials had been received from various groups. This playground build will include the first shaded playground area at a city park.

Hear update on PRCF events

- Wingstock was held April 9 at the Mesa Amphitheatre with approximately 1,500 in attendance and 3 bands that played during the event. PRCF staff has received many positive comments about the event.
- UFEST was held April 23 at Quail Run Park with approximately 6,000+ people in attendance.

David Martinez asked if there would be repeat events of this type. Marc Heirshberg said that was possible if the events were approved by City management.

- U.S. Masters swim meet was held April 29-May 1 at Kino Aquatic Center and had over 1,900 people in attendance; 1,600 attendees were from out of state. Some new swim records were established and staff received a lot of positive feedback about the facility.
- Desert Challenge games were held May 6 – 8 at various Mesa facilities and were the Paralympics qualifier for the London 2012 games.
- Summer Programs will be starting soon; all day camps are currently registering. The Teen Leadership Training (TLT) program for youth ages 13-15 is 70% full, a new preschool camp, Wiggles and Giggles, will be offered. A donation of \$13,000 to fund 2 healthy kids programs was received from the Cardon Children's Hospital.
- PRCF staff spent \$8,000 to print a hard copy brochure with summer program offerings; 200,000 copies went out with the East Valley Tribune, and an additional 40,000 were printed and distributed at elementary schools and libraries in Mesa.
- PRCF 75th Anniversary – staff will be hosting various events during this yearlong celebration, and during June will highlight 75 things to do in Mesa on the Mesa Parks and Recreation website (www.mesaaz.gov/parksrec). An anniversary celebration event will be held on June 16 at Pioneer Park and in October at Red Mountain Park.

Mr. Holste reminded the Board that tours of programs/facilities were available; PRCF staff will send out an email reminder to the Board.

Chair Comments

Mr. Yarbrough told the Board that Mesa is hosting the little league baseball and softball state tournaments July 18-30 at Rhodes Jr. High, in partnership with Mesa Public Schools.

Director's Comments

- Cubs update: City still working on securing a development agreement with the Cubs.
- Upcoming Events – Mr. Heirshberg shared his “looking ahead” presentation entitled Gold Medal 2025 which he will be presenting to the City Manager’s office. The presentation outlines the PRCF Department’s long term goals.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

The Board gave reports on meetings and/or events attended since the previous meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRP
PRCF Department Director