

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 January 8, 2014.

Members Present:

Kent Bulkley
John Duclos
Jennifer Madsen
Wayne Manske
Bert Millett
Kathleen Rahn
Ron Wills
Mark Yarbrough

Members Absent:

Roel Dilig
Milt Fort
Niki Tapia

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Michael Holste
Leslie Clark
Jo Donovan
Tammy Davenport
Andrea Moore

Zac Koceja, Engineering

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 November 13, 2013 Parks Board meeting. Kent Bulkley made a motion, Wayne Manske seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Mr. Wills asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2013 Fees and Charges Subcommittee meeting. Wayne Manske made a motion, Kent Bulkley seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments: None

Public hearing on a Verizon site PHO Gifford on an existing ball field light at Skyline Park, 655 S. Crismon.

Mr. Marc Heirshberg introduced Mr. Cliff Nordyke, Program Manager from Coal Creek Consulting. Ms. Andrea Moore presented the staff report. Ms. Moore explained that PRCF had not installed a cell tower at any City parks in a few years and explained the process. Currently there are two cell towers that are on mono towers (palm trees) at Chaparral and Harmony Park and one at Hohokam on a ball field light. There is certain design criteria required when installing a pole in a park facility including matching the aesthetics currently at the park. The criteria for putting a tower in a park requires notification around the park itself within 500 feet adjacent to the park boundaries, which Verizon complied with to ensure that if any neighbors had a question they could attend the meeting this afternoon. There were no concerns raised by neighbors to Skyline Park. This cell tower will be located on an existing ball field light pole in the northeast corner of the ball field which backs to a drainage swell which is located between the neighborhood and the park. The equipment closure is proposed to go behind the retaining wall and Verizon has agreed to match the block to create a 10 foot wall around their enclosure. The only stipulations that staff have recommended is to ensure that we are not impacting the light metrics on the field with the equipment. The advantage to putting a cell tower in a park is that the revenue that is received from the lease is retained for park improvements, which is unique in

the City, revenue from the other cell towers on City properties is applied to the General Fund. If the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board does recommend approval, the cell tower will still go through the regular cell tower permitting process with Development and Sustainability and go through the Design Review process, which any cell tower is required to complete.

Ms. Rahn asked Ms. Moore about the revenue from the existing cell towers at Chaparral Park and Harmony Park, if there is a contact that goes for a period of time? Ms. Moore explained that it is a contact that the Real Estate Department negotiates for each site. There are different classifications for each site that determines the lease rate that classifies Parks as a Class 2 which is difficult to site, the second highest fee which is different than a broad open space, such as farm land or vacant land and not the most expensive which a highly developed parcel.

Mr. Wills asked if there had been any public comment on this proposed cell tower and Ms. Moore explained that there had been none.

Mr. John Duclos asked if this tower will maintain only one cell provider or will there be other cell providers that will come in and attempt to use the same tower. Ms. Moore explained that this current proposal is just for Verizon as a single provider. Mr. Nordyke with Coal Creek Consulting explained that due to the Rad level and the size of the pole that this would only accommodate a single user. Ms. Moore explained that if another provider wanted to go on the same pole it would have to come back before the Parks Advisory Board for recommendation. Mr. Nordyke also explained that once the cell tower is approved an outside engineering firm will come in and do a light study to verify that the field lighting will not be impacted by installing this cell tower pole.

Make recommendation and take action on Verizon site PHO Gifford on an existing ball field light at Skyline Park, 655 S. Crismon

Mr. Bulkley recommended that the Board approve the staff recommendation to move forward with the Verizon Site PHO Gifford at Skyline Park to Development and Sustainability, Mr. Manske seconded and it was unanimously approved to move forward.

Presentation on Mesa Parks and Recreation Foundation

Mr. Bert Millett, Boardmember and volunteer on the Mesa Parks and Recreation Foundation presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. He explained that the Foundation is a charitable organization separate from the City of Mesa Parks and Recreation Department. The Foundation is a source where people can donate directly to and get a taxable donation credit, and one of the big factors is that the Foundation can apply for Grants to assist with different parks activities. One of the first playground builds with a KaBOOM! Grant was in 2009 with 500 volunteers. Other activities that the Foundation are involved in are dog park expansions and to support youth sports with a large focus on keeping youth active to reduce obesity levels. Another activity that the Foundation is involved with is the "Save the Train" movement to refurbish the train at Pioneer Park. The largest fund raiser the Foundation is involved with is the Mesa Sprint Triathlon which has been very successful for the last 3 years, it is held at Skyline Aquatic Complex in 2013 there were 400 athletes registered. Celebrate Mesa is also an activity that the Foundation supports.

The Foundation is most proud of is the ability to give out aquatic scholarships with the funds that are raised, the idea is to give youth that are financially unable to participate in the different aquatic programs the opportunity to take lessons and be on the different aquatic teams. Ms. Leslie Clark explained that another activity the Foundation is involved with is the Hershey Track and Field with their youth sports donations. Mr. Heirshberg pointed out that the City of Mesa

Parks and Recreation Department and the Mesa Parks Foundation have a great partnership and a great relationship, Ms. Clark, Management Assistant for the City of Mesa Parks and Recreation Department, serves as the Liaison to the Foundation and it is felt that with a voice at the table that the Foundation is always aware of what is going on in the Department. Mr. Heirshberg explained that when the Department has different events such as Celebrate Mesa and fees are charged for some of the activities, once the public is aware that the money for the activities is going to the Foundation the public understands and is willing to pay the fees. Mr. Heirshberg stated that there are many things that the Department is unable to apply for because it is a governmental agency, so the Foundation is able to apply for those different grants and donations. Part of the Accreditation process that the Department was just awarded was to have a Foundation that works with the Department and as staff works toward the Gold Medal Award having a Foundation is an important relationship that they look for when they are judging the Department. Mr. Millett also explained that the Foundation could not do what it does without the support of the City. Mr. Millett also encouraged the Board members to continue to volunteer at the different activities that the Foundation has and if anyone was interested in volunteering to participate on the Foundation he highly recommends it.

Open public hearing discussion on Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule for FY2013/14 and 2014/15

Mr. Wills explained that there was a subcommittee meeting and Mr. Heirshberg, Mr. Mike Holste and Ms. Tammy Davenport presented all the changes to the subcommittee and all questions and concerns were answered.

Mr. Heirshberg explained that what is included in the Boards packet is only the changes that are being proposed. There are no major changes in rates. The Department has held steady on their fees and charges over the last 2 years and are seeing the same increases that we are seeing in our personal lives, utilities and other items so there will be an increase in costs, but all within the approved ranges. All increases are modest with an average of approximately .50 to \$5.00. No changes are being recommended for the youth sports fees. A change that is being proposed is to consolidate our fees to list them as "adult sports" fees instead of listing them individually this allows for the expansion of adding a sport mid-year if desired, the only thing that is listed separately will be adult softball.

There were no comments from the public.

Close public hearing discussion on Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule for FY2013/14 and 2014/15

Mr. Wills closed the discussion, Mr. Manske made a motion, Mr. Bulkley seconded, and it was unanimously carried that the Board recommend that the Fees and Charges Schedule be sent to the Audit, Finance and Enterprise Committee.

Director's Comments

Mr. Heirshberg shared with the Board an invitation to the DoublePlay at the Park on January 25th, which is the grand opening of the new Chicago Cubs training complex and the re-opening of Riverview Park. Also given to the Board was a postcard that is mailed out to residents that have participated in the different activities within the Department, it provides them with the phone numbers for registration and the website where all our activities are listed.

Mr. Heirshberg presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Parks Bond Projects Update:

- Mesa Aquatics Complex: The first public meeting was December 10, 2012 with good turnout. A number of people loved the project and there was discussion on the location, some people would like to see the project moved to the back of the project but the City and Mesa Public Schools felt that due to the amount of funds spent on the project that it needed to be on a major street. The design phase contract will go before Council on Monday, January 13, 2014.
- McDowell and Recker Park: The public meeting was held in October and currently they are pricing the construction documents. Dirt moving should start mid-February. Construction is only estimated to be 3 months and the park should be open by summer of 2014.
- McDowell and Ellsworth Park: Public meetings were held in October and December. Great feedback on the proposed project. Staff has been working with Zaharis Elementary school students and teachers on the environmental nodes.
- Medina and Hawes: Public meeting was held in October. Most residents in the area are excited about the project moving forward and the concept.
- Pioneer Park: Zac Kojeca from Engineering and Mr. Heirshberg shared 3 proposed concepts with the Board and requested a recommendation on which proposal they would like to see. The original plan which was part of the Bond Package incorporated the ideas that came out of the Mayor's Youth Committee which included the ideas of the botanical gardens idea. There was a recent stakeholder meeting and afterward the architects took their comments and created some additional drawings. Staff is hoping that the Board can help with the process by agreeing on one conceptual plan to bring back to the stakeholders and get feedback. The concepts were The Heart of Mesa, The Promenade and The Townsquare. On all plans they maintained all of the existing groves of trees that border the park. Mr. Heirshberg reminded the Board that once the Taylor swimming pool was scratched and the Mesa Aquatics Complex was created funding dollars from the Bond election had to be adjusted to accommodate the new pool, these funds were reallocated from the Pioneer Park project. Currently there is only three million dollars budgeted for the first phase of this project, staff wants to create a good master plan and then phasing options can be shown to the public. Mr. Kojeca stated that what the City is proposing is to have this be a signature park and destination park to draw people to the center of the City. The next public meeting will be held on February 19th at the Main Library. The Board all recommended moving forward with The Promenade concept, but adding a few concepts from some of the other drawings.
- Riverview Park and Chicago Cubs Training Complex: Currently the playground is in and sod is in, hardscape is going in, and the last part to go in is the rubber surfacing. The concept has stayed pretty true to the conceptual drawings that were presented at the time of the Bond election. The Grand Opening will be held on January 25, 2014 from 2pm – 6pm. The Stadium is currently working on the punch list. The Clubhouse is being used, the team is already in and working out. First Chicago Cubs game is February 27th against the Arizona Diamondbacks.
- Mesa Junior High Conversion: This project was delayed due to contract negotiations, but progress is being made. There have been some meetings with the Youth Sports Team stakeholders and Mr. Mark Yarborough has been representing the Board and the Youth baseball/Little League groups. The user groups recommended making the fields at Mesa Junior more multipurpose fields and staff has directed the architectural team to incorporate as many multipurpose fields as possible and then put in some softball fields for overflow from the West Mesa Sports Complex.
- West Mesa Sports Complex: The conceptual drawings are being worked on this site will be used mostly for softball and baseball teams, both youth and adult. Some of the existing facilities that are currently there will be utilized with some modifications. The Youth complex will look similar to Quail Run Sports Complex.

- Ball Field Lighting Improvements: Replacing all of the wood poles that are deteriorating with metal poles and with upgraded technology. One phase will be complete this month and the other phase will be completed in February.
- Irrigation Improvements: Many of the large parks along the US 60 have outdated watering systems which cause the grass to be yellow in some areas and the sprinkler systems to run 24 hours a day. There will be huge improvements in these basins which will help the aesthetics of the parks.
- Playground Improvements: Scheduled for this spring and summer the following playgrounds will receive improvements; Emerald Playground, Pequeño Park, Vista Monterey Playground, Porter Playground which is KaBOOM! Funded Community Build scheduled for April 26, 2014.
- Pool Facility Improvements: The following pools are receiving improvements; Brimhall Pool – pool lift, Carson Pool – pool lift, Shepherd Pool – pool lift, Carson Pool – replaster, Fremont Pool – replaster.
- Recreational Facility Upgrades: The gym floors at Red Mountain Center and the Broadway Recreation Center have been refinished.

Mr. Heirshberg reminded the Board that on Saturday, January 11, 2014 is the Run, Walk and Roll benefiting Arizona Disabled Sports at Tempe Beach Park, currently there are 670 registrants.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Millett attended the Mesa Parks and Recreation Foundation meeting.

Ms. Madsen attended the Boston Pops concert at Hohokam Stadium.

Mr. Yarborough attended two Youth Sports Stakeholder meetings.

Mr. Manske attended the Mesa Aquatic Complex meeting.

Ms. Rahn attended the Boston Pops concert at Hohokam Stadium and the City of Mesa General Plan meeting.

Mr. Bulkley golfed at Dobson Ranch Golf Course and asked Mr. Heirshberg if he would help facilitate a meeting with Mr. Don Flavell to discuss some concerns he has at the golf course.

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. Rahn seconded, and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director