

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session at Skyline High School, 845 S. Crismon Road, Mesa, on November 10, 2010.

Members Present:

Kent Bulkley
Don Goodrum
Steve Ikeda
Kathleen Rahn
Matt Shaffer
Marilyn Wilson
Ron Wills
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

Darla Armfield
Dawn Bies
Mark Foote
Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Aimee Manis

Members Absent:

Milt Fort, unexcused
David Martinez, unexcused
Bert Millett, unexcused

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Mark Yarbrough, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Yarbrough asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the September 8, 2010 Parks Board meeting. Don Goodrum made a motion, Kathleen Rahn seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments

None.

Hear update on summer aquatics programs

Darla Armfield, Mark Foote and Aimee Manis from the Aquatics Program gave an update on the 2010 summer Aquatics Program. Topics covered included:

- Training and Recruitment
- Guard Start Volunteer Program
- Swimming Lessons participation and revenue
- Making Waves Program
- Competitive Aquatics teams participation and revenue
- Special Events
- Facility reservations and revenue
- Public swim attendance and revenue
- Family Pass revenue
- New for 2010
- Skyline Pool project

Matt Shaffer asked about the time commitment for the Guard Start Volunteer Program. Mr. Foote said volunteers are required to put in a minimum of 30 hours and work approximately 2 hours per day, one day per week.

Kent Bulkley asked about switching to the new CPR standards. Ms. Manis said the new CPR standards will be taught but the American Red Cross recommends staying with current standards for youth.

Ms. Rahn asked the age for swimming lessons. Ms. Manis said there were lessons for 6 months old and up.

Marilyn Wilson asked if all of the pools had the rule to close every hour for 10 minutes. Ms. Manis said every pool is closed every hour for 10 minutes to ensure safety and pool cleanliness. Marc Heirshberg added that it was an industry wide practice.

Making Waves and North Central Little League presentations

Bud Page from the Mesa HoHoKams presented checks to staff for the Making Waves Program and to the North Central Little League; North Central Little League received \$3,000 and Making Waves was awarded \$5,000 for scholarships for summer aquatic programs.

Hear update on fees and charges

Mr. Heirshberg gave an update on fees and charges which will be on the January agenda. He said that the Fees and Charges Subcommittee will be meeting to go over the fees for FY 2011-12.

Review draft of Community Youth Group Field Use Policy

Mr. Heirshberg shared a "draft" field use policy with the Board. He said the former policy, mostly unused, is being simplified and will be used to determine field assignments, priorities for field assignments, recognizing the importance of community youth groups. He said it will also expand the seasons and opportunity for youth groups to utilize the fields at a more reasonable cost than allowed with the previous policy. He added that the fee schedule for FY 2011-12 would include a specific fee for these uses to be looked at annually. Mr. Heirshberg asked the Board to look over the draft and forward any questions, comments or changes to Dawn Bies.

Chair Comments

- Cubs Charities - Mr. Yarbrough told the Board that the Cubs proposition had passed with 63% of Mesa citizens voting in favor of the proposition. He said that the Cubs do a lot each year through the HoHoKams and would be doing more in the future.

Mr. Ikeda added that it appears the new owners are very socially conscious; Mr. Yarbrough agreed and said the new owners wanted to give back to the community and were considering a Cubs charity separate from the HoHoKams to provide even more opportunities in the community.

Mr. Goodrum asked what the next step for the Cubs would be. Mr. Yarbrough said the Cubs were getting bids for the design/construction of the new stadium.

Ms. Wilson asked about the relocation of the Riverview Park ball fields. Mr. Heirshberg said the Waveyard development called for the replacement of the ball fields; however,

the agreement with the Cubs does not call for replacement of the ball fields. The difference between the current training at Fitch Park and the new training fields at Riverview would be six fields plus the stadium, to include a 4-plex to be used exclusively by the Cubs between mid-February and April 1st. After that time period, if the Cubs needed additional fields they would have to rent the fields from the City, which is much different than their current agreement with the City. He said the City will have control of the fields at the new facility for nine months/year.

Mr. Heirshberg told the Board he is also working on a business plan for City management to show why it makes sense to be in the adult softball business, trying to come up with ways to build additional softball fields with the net proceeds from the lease of the land by the Cubs. He would prefer putting additional fields at the Red Mountain Complex which would give Mesa a huge sports complex for tournaments and allow more flexibility with adult league play.

Mr. Ikeda said the west Mesa residents were concerned about keeping the softball fields in west Mesa. Mr. Heirshberg said he didn't think this concern had been brought up by residents recently. Mr. Heirshberg added that would be an important role for the Board, lobbying for the importance of these types of recreational amenities and talking to the Council members and attending Council meetings to discuss these issues. Mr. Heirshberg added that this may be something the Cubs charities would be working on.

Mr. Bulkley asked what would happen with the current facilities at Fitch Park. Mr. Heirshberg said the City Manager, with assistance from the Cubs, would be recruiting another team from the Grapefruit League for that facility. Mr. Heirshberg added that he had also been directed to look at other uses for the stadium.

Ron Wills asked the time frame for breaking ground on the new facility. Mr. Heirshberg said the opening would be fall baseball 2013 for a soft opening, with 2014 spring training at the new facility.

Mr. Bulkley asked about the close date for Riverview Golf Course. Mr. Heirshberg said probably the earliest would be in May or June 2011. Mr. Bulkley asked if the pumps and equipment at Riverview would be reused/transferred elsewhere as needed. Mr. Heirshberg said that was part of the \$15 million in infrastructure improvements set aside for the project.

He added that the mayor is committed to making Riverview Park a showplace park in the community.

Ms. Rahn asked if the Cubs would have more room for their facility if the Waveyard project didn't get built. Mr. Heirshberg said Waveyard had been told they didn't need a hotel, convention center or retail development any longer; however, they would not get incentives since the last deadline had been missed.

Director's Comments

- Dogs in Parks update: Staff requested direction from Board on recommendation on updating ordinances and codes regarding dogs in parks. Board requested putting on January 2011 agenda for action.
- Lights: Since July 2010 city has spent approximately \$500K to repairs/replace copper wire that has been stolen at ball fields, in parks and from streetlights.

- Trees: Microburst in October 2010 damaged nearly 150 trees at Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities (PRCF) facilities or parks, costing approximately \$1,000/tree for a total of \$155K in damages. An insurance claim was filed but it only covers the cost of cleanup, not replacement or trees. Many trees were lost at Dobson Ranch Golf Course and several city parks.
- Cubs update: (Information given during Chair Comments)
- New revenue sources: Mr. Heirshberg shared information from the Parks and Recreation Community Survey™ (PARCS™) results. The City was given an opportunity to be a beta test site to for National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the National Research Center to develop a model to do community wide surveys. This information will give city direction on areas of focus for the future.

Results showed the PRCF Department was rated excellent or good by most residents. The top community focus areas were environmental stewardship and sustainability; physical appearance of the community; health and wellness opportunities; and trails, paths and mobility. Staff will keep these things in mind when looking for new revenue sources.

- Trail crossing signage: Mr. Heirshberg had been contacted by a Board member regarding a traffic accident near the canal crossing and Brown Road; he checked with Transportation Department, which handles trail crossings, who indicated signals are to be placed at major trail crossings.
- Calendar of events:
 - MAC Fest – December 10 & 11, city departments working to expand event for citizens. December event will include Kid Zone with games and inflatables.
 - Community Day of Play – November 20, 2010, 12-4pm, Carriage Lane Park.
 - Fall League games – Four games remaining at Hohokam Stadium.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Ms. Rahn attended the Community Day of Play at Falcon Hill Park.

Mr. Ikeda attended the Cubs 420 celebration, Coffee with a Councilmember event, City Hall at the Mall and a light rail meeting.

Mr. Wills attended the state swimming championships at Kino Aquatic Complex.

Ms. Wilson attended soccer games at Harmony and Red Mountain Parks and the Community Day of Play at Falcon Hill Park.

Mr. Yarbrough attended the Cubs 420 celebration and the Cubs/Little League Clinic.

Mr. Goodrum visited several east Mesa parks and will be attending the Turkey Trot in November.

Mr. Bulkley attended Rockin' on Ray event and the Community Day of Play at Falcon Hill Park.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRP
PRCF Department Director