

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 4, 2007

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 4, 2007 at 4:45 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Tom Rawles
Scott Somers
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner

Vice Mayor Walters participated in the discussion of agenda item 1 through the use of telephonic equipment. Mayor Hawker excused her from the remainder of the meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the September 4, 2007 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: None

Items deleted from the agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 4b, 5f and 7

2. Hear a presentation and discuss the relocation of the Riverview softball fields.

Williams Gateway Airport Area Project Manager Scot Rigby introduced Assistant Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Director Mike Holste, who provided an overview of the existing ball field complex at Riverview Park.

Mr. Holste displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) and reported that staff was seeking a West Mesa site that could accommodate four ball fields and include the following features:

- A 16-acre site that is buffered from residential areas.
- A location in close proximity to a freeway.

- Four 310' fields in a cloverleaf configuration.
- A minimum of 70 feet between fields to provide a warm-up area and foul ball safety zones.
- A centralized restroom and concession stand.
- The ability to fence and gate the complex in order to protect a minimum of 250 on-site parking spaces.
- An irrigation lake to reduce watering expenses (may require the addition of six or more acres to the site).

Mr. Rigby continued the presentation and advised that to date, staff has investigated more than 15 sites in the target area west of Gilbert Road and north of Baseline Road. He listed the following sites, some of which are privately owned and others are owned by the City:

1. 18.5 acres at the northwest corner of Dobson and Broadway Roads (the former Motorola site).
2. 19.2 acres at the northwest corner of Longmore and Broadway Road (staff has had ongoing discussions regarding this property).
3. 25.5 acres at the northwest corner of Lewis and Coury (a property owned by the City that includes a retention basin).
4. 19.9 acres at the southeast corner of Center Street and Brown Road (the owner has no interest in selling the property to the City).
5. 17.5 acres at the northwest corner of Stapley Drive and Southern Avenue (the property is currently being developed by the private sector).
6. 12.5 acres at the southeast corner of McKellips Road and Center Street (the site could accommodate two ball fields and is located adjacent to a retention basin).
7. 18 acres at the northwest corner of Center Street and State Route 202 (adjacent to the Police Training Center and would require negotiations with the Salt River Indian Community in order to accommodate a fourth ball field).
8. 18.6 acres at the southwest corner of Center Street and State Route 202 (the property owner is not interested in selling).
9. 24 acres at Kleinman Park (the park presently has two small ball fields).
10. 18 acres at the southeast corner of Stapley Drive and Lehi Road (a triangular property located in a heavy residential area that could only accommodate two fields).
11. 22.5 acres at the southwest corner of Country Club Drive and Kiowa Street (the property owner is willing to discuss a possible sale).

12. 46 acres located northwest of Stapley Drive and Harris Street (the Catholic cemetery plans to utilize the property for future expansion of that facility).
13. 62.5 acres at the southwest corner of Horne and U.S. 60 (staff has had ongoing discussions with the property owner for a period of time).
14. 19 acres at the southwest corner of Southern Avenue and Extension (controlled by two property owners in the area of the future Fiesta Towers project).
15. 30 acres at the southwest corner of University and Mesa Drives (owned by the City and formerly known as Site 17).

Mr. Rigby added that although the property at the southwest corner of Pasadena and McKellips Road was discussed in the past, the site could accommodate only one ball field.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the presentation was designed to provide an overview of the properties, and that specific details regarding pricing and negotiations could be discussed during the Executive Session scheduled to follow the Study Session.

In response to a question from Councilmember Somers regarding the site at Lewis and Coury, Mr. Rigby advised that the property is located in a retention basin, which would not be conducive for a "competition field."

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the City owns a substantial piece of property in the area of Higley Road and U.S. 60; that staff is attempting to relocate the ball fields in West Mesa in order to address the concerns expressed by West Mesa residents; and that Engineering personnel have investigated the drainage issues that exist on the property at Lewis and Coury to determine the feasibility of utilizing the site.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Griswold, Parks Development and Strategic Planner Andrea Moore advised that Red Mountain Park has 900 acres of undeveloped land and a portion of that area is master planned to accommodate four ball fields.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- a. Human Relations Advisory Board meeting held on July 18, 2007.
- b. Planning and Zoning meetings held on July 17 and July 19, 2007.
- c. Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting held on August 16, 2007.

It was moved by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Somers, that the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

Councilmember Jones: Arizona League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

There were no reports on scheduling of meetings and general information.

5. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 4th day of September 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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