

Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular meeting at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 100 North Center Street, on April 13, 2006.

Members Present:

John Dyer
Russ Gillard
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Jeff Kirk
David Martinez
Bernadine Mooney
Walter "Bud" Page, Jr.
Marilyn Wilson

Staff Present:

Darla Armfield
Susan Byrne
Mark Grant
Mike Holste
Cindy Hunt
Ray Kaniut
Andrea Moore
Kym Otterstedt
Terri Palmberg
Diane Rogers
Bob White
Sherry Woodley

Members Absent:

LeRoy Brady, excused
Don Goodrum, excused
Dina Lopez, excused

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm by Bud Page, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Connie Gullatt-Whiteman requested that the February 9, 2006 minutes be amended to reflect that she attended the Mesa Community College Commission on Excellence Semi-Annual Luncheon, at which City issues were discussed.

Russ Gillard made a motion, Connie Gullatt-Whiteman seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 9, 2006, as amended.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Chair's Comments

Mr. Page commented on a recent article about volunteerism that appeared in the Mesa Tribune; Russ Gillard was one of the volunteers featured. Mr. Page also circulated a news article that appeared in the East Mesa Independent concerning the \$5,000 check given to the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation at a recent Parks Board meeting.

Mr. Page welcomed Debbie Bryant from the Mesa Leadership, Training and Development Program.

Mr. Page reminded the Board that the City Election is May 16 and asked Board members if May 25 would be a preferred date for the next Board meeting, rather than May 10. It was the consensus of the Board that the next Board meeting will be held May 25, 2006.

It was also the consensus of the Board that information for future Board meetings (agenda, reports, etc.) be sent by electronic mail.

Mr. Page welcomed David Hart, a senior at ASU, who is attending the Board meeting in conjunction with an ASU Recreation course.

Partnering Efforts

Terri Palmberg reported that in light of the City's current financial status, departments/divisions were provided targeted budget reductions. Two reductions identified in Parks and Recreation were: 1) eliminate subsidy of Autry Tennis Complex; and 2) eliminate subsidy of Quail Run sports fields.

Gene Autry Tennis Complex

Gene Autry Tennis Complex replaced Hohokam Tennis Center, opening in April 1997. This complex features 16 lighted tennis courts, four lighted sand volleyball courts, practice wall, men's and women's locker rooms/showers, a control building with reception area, offices, and space for a tennis pro shop. This award-winning facility is well used for lessons, leagues, open play, and tournaments, hosting more than 50,000 users annually.

2006-07 Budget Overview Projected

Operations and Maintenance	\$351,190
Revenue	<u>196,000</u>
Net Cost	\$155,190

To meet the request to eliminate subsidy, staff prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) with a direct mail to prospective partnering individuals and organizations, along with on-line posting and various information outlets. The RFP was released mid-February and a mandatory pre-proposal conference/site visit was held March 3 with eight participants. RFP submissions were due April 3. One proposal was received from East Valley Tennis, LLC, which is a newly formed corporation. The proposer will give a presentation to a review panel on April 20. The panel is comprised of Board members Dina Lopez and Don Goodrum, a community tennis player, and City staff. Also, a representative from the City's Purchasing Office will be sitting in on the process. A recommendation will be presented to the Parks Board at the May meeting.

Mr. Gillard asked if input was received from tennis players.

Ms. Palmberg replied that tennis players were contacted. They wanted to make sure the program is still affordable; that fees do not increase and tournaments are available. Staff met with the user groups on-site and advised that fees would be reviewed to ensure they are still affordable.

Marilyn Wilson asked about the length of the contract and the effect of the tax initiative.

Ms. Palmberg replied that the length of the contract is five years, with an option for renewal. Staff believes the program is a "go" regardless of the tax initiative outcome. The panel will make sure that what is being proposed in the RFP submission can occur with the resources available.

Quail Run Sports Fields

Quail Run Youth Sports Complex opened in Fall 2001. Quail Run features a baseball/softball complex with four 60-foot lighted fields, an office, covered dugouts, batting tunnels, bleacher seating, restrooms, storage, and concession area. The soccer complex has four lighted fields, berm seating, restrooms (which also serve Bark Place and the playground), concession slab with power, maintenance and storage rooms. This facility has over 60,000 sports users annually.

2006-07 Budget Overview Projected	
Operations and Maintenance	\$324,638
Revenue	<u>23,000</u>
Net Cost	\$301,638

To evaluate the request to eliminate subsidy, 34 youth sports organizational representatives were invited to participate in a potential partnership meeting on March 15. Seven organizations attended and staff outlined operations and maintenance information and facility usage, and gave an overview of partnering purposes and issues. On March 23, the meeting was repeated with four additional organizations represented.

A follow-up dialogue/discussion meeting to evaluate the reality of developing a partnership(s) was held April 5. Five organizations attended this meeting.

Staff is now moving forward to evaluate requirements associated with agreement(s) development and will continue to work with interested youth sports providers to develop positive alternatives while reducing City subsidy. Parks and Recreation staff continue progress on development of partnerships to reduce subsidy, focusing on due diligence to ensure quality services, cost effectiveness, and maximum community use.

Mr. Gillard asked if the City would consider an expansion plan if presented by an organization wanting to operate one of the facilities.

Ms. Palmberg said the contract will include language to that effect.

Mr. Dyer expressed concern with Quail Run Park being managed by an outside organization. Little League uses the fields extensively; however, Little League is comprised of small volunteer organizations that do not have the capital to assume management of the facility. Everyone is volunteered to the limit. They need to keep focused that they are here to serve and make it work for the kids. He does not want to see a for-profit group increase fees so much that kids cannot afford it anymore. He cautioned that everyone needs to be careful and creative in this process.

Mr. Page asked about the timeframe.

Ms. Palmberg said it will be about six weeks before a plan is developed. It will probably be fall/winter for implementation, depending on the passage of the tax initiative.

Adaptive Program

Cindy Hunt reported that the division's adaptive program serves individuals with disabilities by conducting special events and programs on a daily basis. She introduced Mark Grant, Recreation Supervisor, and Susan Byrne, Recreation Programmer, with the adaptive program.

Mr. Grant gave a slide presentation and provided background information and history on the adaptive program.

Mr. Gillard said this is a fantastic program. Staff should be proud of their accomplishments and recognition nationwide.

Division Staffing Levels

Sherry Woodley reported that the Parks and Recreation Division currently has more than 21 vacant staff positions; however, the work load has not decreased, and staff are continuing to do

more with less. If the property tax initiative does not pass, the division will have over 50 staff positions cut.

FY06-07 Budget Update

Bob White reported that City Council revised the reduction list that was developed on March 29. The budget is being prepared as if neither initiative passes. After the election, BARs (Baseline Adjustments Requests) may be placed back in the budget. Parks and Recreation has 22 BARs, amounting to about \$4 million.

Fees and charges will go to the City Council Finance Committee on May 1. Council has been complimentary about the Parks Board's attitude of raising fees and keeping activities and programs affordable.

Mr. White also reported that Tim Barnard accepted a position with the City of Scottsdale. His job duties in Scottsdale are similar to what he did in Mesa.

Meetings and/or Events Attended

Mr. Page reminded the Board that this item is included on every agenda so the Mayor and City Council can know of Board members' involvement and participation in the community.

Ms. Gullett-Whiteman reported:

- attending Spring in the Park, a neighborhood meeting in northeast Mesa. The District Councilmember was at the event.
- continuing to meet with the United Way regarding resources distribution. City of Mesa staff also listen to the presentations by the organizations appearing before United Way.
- attending Blast, a drum and bugle corps show at the Mesa Arts Center.

Mr. Dyer said he is at Quail Run Park several times a week for 7:30 pm games and the park is very crowded. There is a lot of community activity occurring at the park.

Ms. Wilson said she also attended the Blast performance at the Mesa Arts Center.

David Martinez said Red Mountain High School is a nice facility; the fields are good.

Staff Updates

Andrea Moore reported:

- the Carson construction contract should go to City Council on May 22.
- an ADA upgrade of the playground at Kingsborough Park is being submitted for CDBG funding. Funding approval should be known by the end of the fiscal year. Jefferson ballfield lights will be requested next year.

Mike Holste introduced Ray Kaniut and Kym Otterstedt, Recreation Supervisors. Mr. Kaniut works at the Decatur office and is responsible for adult sports and junior high programs and Ms. Otterstedt is responsible for the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center (RMMC).

Mr. Holste reported:

- Mesa recently hosted a college baseball tournament at Autry Park. The five-week event had 50 teams from the East Coast and Midwest, 1,500 participants, and about 3,000 spectators. It was good economic impact for Mesa.
- The RMMC held its annual spring break Kidz Zone, with over 160 participants. After school programs will be ending and staff is preparing for summer programs.

Darla Armfield reported:

- the Kleinman Wheels Court was vandalized and will be closed for two weeks.
- new playground structures have been installed at Sherwood and Mountain View parks. A woodchip surface is being tested at these two parks.
- the aquatics program is currently recruiting and training in preparation for summer.

Sherry Woodley reported:

- staff is responding to City Council and the Budget and Research office regarding requests for information on division programs on the cut list.
- staff is preparing for registration for aquatics and summer programs.
- staff is working with Mesa Parent Youth Athletic Association, which is planning to change the format of the organization. The organization will use the City of Mesa as a resource.
- staff has received calls from the press for "putting a face" on the budget cuts. Specific staff names will not be used but specific programs will be identified.

Director's Report

Bob White reported:

- staff continues to prepare for the 2006 APRA Conference that will be held in Mesa August 28 through September 1. It should be an exciting week.
- at the April 13 Council Study Session, the renaming of the Washington Activity Center was discussed. The suggestion was brought forward to rename it in honor of Margie Frost. The division has an administrative regulation for renaming of facilities. This issue will be brought to the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob White
Parks and Recreation Director

(A tour of parks and recreation facilities was conducted immediately following the meeting.)