

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation 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 September 8, 2010.

Members Present:

Kent Bulkley
Milt Fort
Don Goodrum
Steve Ikeda
David Martinez
Bert Millett
Kathleen Rahn
Ron Wills
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

Dawn Bies
J.D. Dockstader
Mark Foote
Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Cindy Hunt

Members Absent:

Matt Shaffer, excused
Marilyn Wilson, excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by David Martinez, Chair.

FY 2010-11 Chair/Vice Chair elections

Mr. Martinez opened the floor for nominations for the positions of Parks Board Chair and Vice-chair for FY 2010-11. Steve Ikeda nominated Mark Yarbrough for Chair, Ron Wills seconded the nomination. No other nominations were received; it was unanimously carried to approve Mr. Yarbrough as Parks Board Chair. Mr. Ikeda nominated Don Goodrum for Vice-chair, Milt Fort seconded the nomination. No other nominations were presented; it was unanimously carried to approve Mr. Goodrum as Parks Board Vice-chair.

Introduction of new Board members

Mr. Yarbrough introduced the new Board members and welcomed them to the Board and asked them each to share a little background information with the Board. Marc Heirshberg added staff met with two of the three new Board members prior to this meeting and gave them a packet of information about the department.

Kent Bulkley is a longtime Mesa resident with a wife and 2 children, previously in the golf business and managed Dobson Ranch Golf Course for 20 years and taught at Arizona State University and Chandler Gilbert Community College.

Kathleen Rahn has lived in Mesa for 16 years, has 3 children and has utilized parks and recreation facilities over the years. She thinks parks and recreation are important to families and their overall health. She works as a school psychologist in Scottsdale.

Bert Millett is a Mesa resident, has 4 children and is passionate about Mesa Parks and Recreation. He is an attorney and also serves on the Board of the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Yarbrough asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the May 12, 2010 Parks Board meeting. Milt Fort made a motion, Mr. Martinez seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes. Mr. Yarbrough asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2010 Parks Board special meeting. Ron Wills made a motion, Don Goodrum seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments

None.

Hear update on park improvements

Mr. Heirshberg gave the Board an update on park improvements:

- Countryside Dog Park – Construction completed, improvement still being added, and staff has received a lot of requests for additional improvements.
- Riverview Park – SRP electrical project underway, power should be back on by mid-October. There is temporary power in place for flag football leagues; however, the copper wire for generator operating the lights was stolen after only one night. All user groups were moved to other locations.
- Princess Park – Playground replacement to be completed this year.
- Kleinman and Carriage Lane Parks – Basketball court replacements scheduled for each park, construction should start soon.

Mr. Bulkley asked if the tennis courts were still being used at Kleinman Park; Mr. Heirshberg said they were open but in need of major attention. Staff is evaluating the best use for that area.

- Skyline Pool – On track for February 2011 completion, staff plans to schedule a site tour for the Board.
- Dobson Park – Sprinkler conversion underway to be completed by year end; new pump installed at lake at golf course and are converting potable water to irrigated water which should show considerable savings in the operations budget for that park.
- Stapley Pool – Replaster project underway, to be completed by spring 2011.
- Gene Autry Park – Working on irrigation pump replacement project.

Mr. Ikeda asked if the city still owned the land or if it was given over to a private entity to run it. Mr. Heirshberg said the city still owns the land/buildings and that the tennis facility was being run by a private entity; he added that the clubhouse and practice field are being leased by the Arizona Rattlers, and Gateway Community College is under contract to use one of the baseball fields and the batting cages.

Mr. Yarbrough asked the age of Stapley Pool; Mark Foote answered that it was about 10-13 years old and that it was one of the first amenity pools built in Mesa.

Hear update on summer recreation programs

Mike Holste told the Board that the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) recently conducted their annual state conference and three Mesa staff members had received awards: Cindy Hunt received Recreation Professional of the Year, Mark Foote received Outstanding New Professional in Aquatics, Aimee Manis received Outstanding Service Award for her many years of service to APRA serving in various capacities and on countless committees.

Mr. Holste introduced Ms. Hunt to give the Board an update on 2010 summer camps. She told the Board about Camp Fiesta, a camp for individuals with intellectual and/or physical disabilities.

Camp Fiesta is run at Stapley Junior High in cooperation with Department of Economic Security (DES) Division of Development Disabilities, which provides funding for this program. There were 102 participants and 20 participants who were included into the mainstream camps with assistance from staff. At the end of the program some of the campers from Chandler, Tempe and Mesa went on a 3-day outdoor experience called Camp Carly in Lakeside. Show Low staff and football players from Show Low High School participated in activities also.

Other summer program highlights:

- 13 youth camps held in 2010, up from 9 in 2009
- 2,325 participants, up from 1673 in 2009
- 1 all day program, 7am – 6pm; other programs run 1 – 5:30pm
- Partnered with MPS to provide lunches/free lunch programs at WAC, Washington Elementary, Jefferson & Webster Rec Centers, and Camp Fiesta
- Partnered with Cardon's Children's Hospital to provide Healthier You Camp with 50 participants; participated in Zumba, yoga, rock climbing, swim aerobics, field trips and remained active all day; finished each day by filling out a journal of activities and how they feel. At the end of the program parents attended three meetings with participants; talked about nutrition and discussed how to continue being active after the programs ended. Staff hopes to expand it to two programs for 2011.

Ms. Rahn asked how students were selected for the program. Ms. Hunt said it was a first come, first serve basis; the fee was only \$35 and parents had to sign a contract, participants had physicals prior to participating and all participants were tested at the end of the camp with a total combined weight loss of 189 lbs for campers.

Mr. Bulkley asked for information for the Board regarding partnerships with Cardon's Children's Hospital, MPS, etc. and asked if the schools absorb the cost of facility use. Ms. Hunt said the City rents the facilities but the nutrition programs were federally funded.

Mr. Heirshberg said staff would keep the Board updated on those relationships and programs. He added that there were videos on You Tube (search Mesa Channel 11) to see a video highlighting the success of the programs.

Hear update on Playful City USA designation

Mr. Heirshberg told the Board that Mesa had been designated as a Playful City USA for the 2nd year in a row, one of 118 cities in the nation to receive that designation for 2010. He said Mesa had partnered with the KaBoom! Organization to build two playgrounds in 2009 – one at Beverly Park and one at Park of the Canals.

Mr. Bulkley asked if proposals were submitted to receive funding. Mr. Heirshberg said yes and added that staff was currently working on an application for another playground. He said KaBoom! looks for private businesses to partner with for funding.

Mr. Martinez asked where the Playful City USA signs were posted. Mr. Heirshberg replied that they were at the Light Rail Station at Sycamore and one at Superstition Springs Mall park and ride lot.

Hear update on Triathlon/Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation

Mr. Heirshberg asked Mr. Millett to give an update on behalf of the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation. Mr. Millett said the signature fundraising event would be the Triathlon, to be held on April 9, 2011 at Kino Pool. He said the committee meets monthly, had three sponsors

but needed more sponsors. He said the Foundation was still working out the details for staffing, traffic control, permits, etc.

Mr. Heirshberg said he would contact the Foundation to discuss facility usage and staffing.

Mr. Millett welcomed any ideas for sponsorships from the Board and added that the Foundation expects 300-500 participants.

Mr. Fort asked who the current sponsors were. Mr. Millett said Synergy Tech, Aleris and his law firm, Wallin Harrison. He said he would add the Board to the Foundation listserv to keep them up to date on information from the Foundation.

Mr. Bulkley asked for background information on the Foundation. Mr. Millett said the Foundation wants to replace some of the programs that were cut from Parks and Recreation. He said it is the “charitable arm” of the Mesa Parks and Recreation and works to raise money to help fund programs. He said sponsorships were tax deductible. He added that there were some funds earmarked for dog park improvements available for use.

Mr. Heirshberg said the City would like to let the money sit and gain a little more in order to have a large amount for use at the dog park for expansion purposes. He added that the Foundation also served as a grant writing arm for the City as well.

Chair Comments

- Establish Fees & Charges Subcommittee – Mr. Yarbrough asked for three volunteers to serve on the subcommittee; members would look at current parks and recreation fees and make suggestions about fees and/or increases.

Mr. Bulkley asked if it was all fees. Mr. Heirshberg said it was only for fees that staff was proposing making changes to. He said the fees and ranges had to be approved by the Parks Board prior to going to Council.

Kathleen Rahn, Ron Wills and Milt Fort volunteered to serve on the Fees and Charges subcommittee. Mr. Yarbrough asked for a nomination for the nominees to be appointed to the Fees and Charges subcommittee. Mr. Ikeda made a motion, Mr. Goodrum seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the nomination.

Director's Comments

- Budget - New fiscal year began July 1, 2010 with few changes; staff will continue to work within the budget to be as resourceful as possible to get the most out of our programs and facilities.
- Cubs Update – Mr. Heirshberg asked Mr. Yarbrough as Chair of the Keep the Cubs Committee to give an update. Mr. Yarbrough said Proposition 420 would be on the November ballot to allow the City to use \$84 million in enterprise funds to be replenished by the sale of city-owned Pinal County farmland to build a new spring training facility for the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs will purchase the land, Mesa will pay to build the facility and the Cubs will also pay for additional shops, museums, and other amenities around the stadium. The Board inquired about the location for the stadium. Mr. Yarbrough said it had been narrowed down to either the Riverview location or central Mesa.

Mr. Fort asked how many ballot arguments had been submitted. Mr. Yarbrough said zero opposing arguments had been submitted with 40-50 in favor of the ballot item.

- Facility Tour – Mr. Heirshberg asked if the Board would be interested in meeting at Skyline High School to tour the new aquatic facility being built. He said the tour would include Skyline, Kino, Rhodes and the FlowRider, Red Mountain Multigenerational Center and could be done either before the November meeting or on a different date.

Dawn Bies will set up a tour/November meeting location and email the Board with details.

- Calendar of events –
 - Arizona Disabled Sports Association Fall Fundraiser, October 2, 5pm at the Convention Center
 - Community Day of Play – October 23, 12-4pm at Falcon Hill Park
 - District 4 Pancake Breakfast – September 25, 8-10am at Fire Station 201
 - District 6 Pancake Breakfast – October 2, 8-10am at Fire Station 212
- Organization changes in Recreation Programs were made to better align staff; supervisor responsibilities were realigned. Adult Sports were moved to Kym Otterstedt to create a true athletics division, Kym will have all of the athletic programs and recreation centers; Darla Armfield and staff will be working to create year round aquatics programs and Darla will also supervise the Park Rangers; Cindy Hunt will supervise Volunteers, Special Events, Adaptive Programs and Reservations/Registration.

The Board asked about the special events to be held. Mr. Heirshberg said Community Days of Play, assisting with Mesa Arts Center to expand the MAC Festival in December, and the Arizona Celebration of Freedom. He told the Board there was currently no money budgeted for special events and added that staff was trying to establish a baseline budget and get staff in place to try and get funding returned to the budget.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Martinez had driven by Skyline High School and was excited to view the progress of construction on the pool.

Ms. Rahn has been noticing all the parks in Mesa since she was appointed to the Board.

Mr. Millett attended the Dog Park opening and the Foundation's Triathlon meeting.

Mr. Yarbrough attended the Dog Park opening and will be attending the Keep the Cubs clinic coming up.

Mr. Ikeda attended the Dog Park opening and the Mayor's meeting at ASU East campus.

Mr. Fort accompanied the delegation for Sister Cities to Burnaby British Columbia. He said there is a park for every 1,000 people in Burnaby. He also attended the 2nd Friday event and the kickoff for the Mesa Arts Center season.

Mr. Wills attended the Mesa Swim championships at Kino Pool and he also served as announcer for the synchronized swimming championships at Kino.

Mr. Bulkley spent the summer in Logan, Utah and Missoula, Montana where he visited the Parks and Recreation Department and discussed parks issues. He added they are very outdoor-oriented.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRP
PRCF Department Director