

CITIZENS' BOND REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 30, 1999

The Citizens' Bond Review Committee - 2000 of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 30, 1999 at 5:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

C. K. Sato, Chairman
 Judy Adams
 Wilford Anderson
 Robert Brinton
 Nick Carr
 Charlie Deaton
 Barry Dickerson
 Ferdie Guerrero, Jr.
 Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
 Jack Gunter
 Eric Jackson
 Pat Langdon
 Carol McCormack
 Pat Mendivil
 Will Moore
 Laurie Nichols
 Dan Reeb
 Beverly Selvage
 George Smith

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

COUNCIL PRESENT

 None

STAFF PRESENT

 Dennis Compton
 Linda Crocker
 G. T. Fowler
 Jack Friedline

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Joe Holmwood
 Mike Hutchinson
 Ron Krosting
 Dorinda Larsen
 Keith Nath
 Dave Plumb
 Ron Poulin
 Bryan Raines
 Paul Wilson
 Larry Woolf

Chairman Sato welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the process that would be followed for the meeting. Chairman Sato commented that each of the proposed bond issues will be voted on separately by the members of the Committee and urged those present to present input and/or pose questions relative to the various items.

1. Discuss responses to questions and issues raised previously.

Assistant to the City Manager Bryan Raines advised that in response to questions from Committeemember Gunter regarding affordability, the sale of the bonds and effects on the City's debt structure, Finance Director Larry Woolf prepared a three-page financial breakdown. Mr. Raines said that Mr. Woolf is present to review the report and respond to any additional questions from the Committee.

Mr. Woolf provided a brief overview of the City's projected bond program, estimated debt structure, debt retirement and anticipated effects of the bond sales and responded to additional questions from the members of the Committee.

2. Discuss and Develop Final Recommendations.

a. Proposed Programs:

Gas Program

The Committee moved to recommend to Council a \$7 million bond authorization for the Gas Program, as proposed by staff.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Water Program

The Committee moved to recommend to Council a \$87,625,000 bond authorization for the Water Program, as proposed by staff.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Wastewater Program

Utilities Manager David Plumb responded to questions from Committeemembers Selvage and Langdon relative to this program.

The Committee moved to recommend to Council a \$113,375,000 bond authorization for the Wastewater Program, as proposed by staff.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Stormwater Program

In response to a question from Committeemember Reeb, Mr. Plumb advised that bond authorizations remain in effect indefinitely and noted that the funding could not be moved to another area.

The Committee moved to recommend to Council a \$21,475,000 bond authorization for the Stormwater Program, as proposed by staff.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Fire & Medical Emergency Response

The Committee moved to recommend to Council a \$20,970,000 bond authorization for the Fire & Medical Emergency Response Program, as proposed by staff.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Law Enforcement Program

The Committee moved to recommend to Council a \$27,875,000 bond authorization for the Law Enforcement Program, as proposed by staff.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Program

Committeemember Brinton stated that the Committee has been provided copies of an updated memorandum containing information on the additional development that could be accomplished at the Park of the Canals if the funding request was increased from \$1 million to \$3 million. Committeemember Brinton noted that the infrastructure costs alone could total \$1 million and said that no additional funding would then be available for development of the Park of the Canals. Committeemember Brinton stressed the importance of proceeding on this project as quickly as possible.

Discussion ensued among the members of the Committee and staff regarding the proposed increase in funding and the fact that the Park of the Canals, when developed, has the potential of being both a historic destination site for tourists as well as an educational facility and learning center for youths in Mesa and surrounding areas.

Chairman Sato recommended that the Committee review the additional Parks Bond issues prior to voting on them on an individual basis.

Committeemember Langdon referred to a memorandum dated November 29, 1999 from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Director Joe Holmwood relative to a recommendation that was made at the November 16, 1999 Bond Committee meeting to expand the momentum of the current Mesa Southwest Museum expansion by including additional capital dollars in the proposed bond program for acquisition and further development of the Museum. Committeemember Langdon spoke in support of allocating and recommending additional funding for acquisition of the appropriate properties in the area which staff has estimated would cost approximately \$2.3 million. Committeemember Langdon stated the opinion that construction efforts should also be accelerated.

Discussion ensued relative to the City's long-term goal to create a "museum district", the fact that the \$2.5 million figure reflects the cost of acquiring all of the parcels in the area, and potential costs associated with the next phase of construction at the Museum and the possibility of acquiring all of the land necessary for the proposed "museum district" at this time and generating construction/expansion funds at a future bond election.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to Council a \$3 million bond authorization.

Additional discussion ensued relative to design costs and the importance of acquiring all of the land as quickly as possible for future museum projects

(Southwest Museum)

The motion was amended and seconded to recommended to Council a \$4 million bond authorization to cover the cost of full land acquisition for the museum district (\$2.3 million) and architectural design fees/miscellaneous costs associated with the Southwest Museum expansion.

The motion was carried by a majority of the Committee, with Committeemember Laurie Nichols voting nay.

(HoHoKam Stadium Maintenance Costs)

The Committee moved to recommend to Council that \$700,000 (#9750) that is being proposed to cover maintenance costs at HoHoKam stadium, be deleted.

The motion was carried unanimously.

(Carson Junior High School Pool – Gutters)

The Committee moved to recommend to Council that an additional \$250,000 be added to the bond authorization to cover the cost of swimming pool gutter replacement at Carson Junior High School.

The motion was carried unanimously.

(Park of the Canals)

The Committee moved to recommend to Council that funding for the Park of the Canals development be increased from \$1,050,000 to \$3 million, as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

The motion was carried unanimously.

(Construction of a pool at the George N. Smith Junior High School)

Mr. Raines noted that staff will continue to modify the program as needed and informed the Committee that construction of a new junior high school at Crismon and Adobe Roads, to be named the George N. Smith Junior High School, is proceeding quicker than previously anticipated. Mr. Raines discussed the partnership that exists between the City of Mesa and the Mesa Public Schools District regarding the construction of pools by the City at those facilities, and requested that the Committee consider approving additional funds for the construction of this pool.

Mr. Raines informed the Committee that staff is recommending the approval of \$3.2 million to cover the cost of a new pool at the George N. Smith Junior High School and noted that inflation funds have been included in that amount.

The Committee moved to recommend to Council that additional funding in the amount of \$3.2 million be added to the bond authorization to cover the cost of construction of a pool at the George N. Smith Junior High School, which is currently under construction.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Chairman Sato and Mr. Raines calculated the total allocations for the items listed above as follows:

	Original Parks Bonds Allocation:	\$ 53,540,000
Additions:	Southwest Museum	4,000,000
	Park of the Canals	1,950,000
	Carson Jr. High Roof Gutter	250,000
	George N. Smith Jr. High Pool	3,200,000
Deletions:	HoHoKam Stadium Maintenance	- 700,000
Total Parks Bonds Recommended Funding:		\$ 62,240,000

The Committee moved to recommend to the Council a \$62,240,000 total Parks Bond authorization.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Committeemember Langdon stressed emphasizing to the Council the importance of the Southwest Museum.

Streets Program

The Committee moved to recommend to the Council a \$50,065,000 total Street and Highway User Bonds authorization.

Boardmember Langdon indicated the importance of the City continuing to work to increase the capacity of US 60, the Superstition Freeway, in conjunction with the City's road-widening projects.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Capital Improvements (General Public Facilities)

Committeemember Selvage spoke in favor of deleting the funding proposed to cover the initial design costs for a light rail transit system. Committeemember Selvage stated the opinion that the proposed system is inefficient and expensive.

A motion to delete line item 18, light rail transit initial design, from the bonds proposal as recommended by Committeemember Selvage failed, with Committeemember Selvage being the sole vote in support of the deletion.

The Committee moved to recommend to Council a \$24,500,000 total bond authorization in Capital Improvement Bonds.

The motion was carried unanimously.

a. Other Issues or Concerns

There were no other issues or concerns addressed at this time.

Mr. Raines estimated that the total recommended bond authorization is approximately \$415 million.

3. Discuss tentative schedule of important bond related dates:

Mr. Raines briefly outlined the following proposed tentative schedule:

- a. December 6, 1999 – Final Report submitted to the City Council at the Study Session prior to the City Council meeting. **Tentatively** scheduled for 4:30 p.m., Lower Level Council Chambers.
- b. December 9, 1999 – City Council action on bond programs during a Special Meeting of the City Council. **Tentatively** scheduled for 7:30 am, Lower Level Council Chambers.

c. March 14, 2000 – City Primary and Bond Election

Mr. Raines noted that he and Chairman Sato will present the various bond issues to the Council but invited members of the Committee to attend the meetings and be recognized for their participation in this process. Mr. Raines thanked the members of the Committee for their willingness to serve on the Committee.

4. Public Comment.

There were no citizens present wishing to provide input at this time.

5. Closing Comments.

Chairman Sato expressed appreciation to Mr. Raines, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Woolf and the other members of staff for their efforts and cooperation and extended his gratitude to the members of the Committee for their participation. Chairman Sato stated that he is proud to be a citizen of the City of Mesa and encouraged everyone to positively support the efforts of City management and elected officials.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Citizens Bond Review Committee - 2000, held on the 30th day of November 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK