

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 November 13, 2003.

Members Present:

LeRoy Brady
Robert Brinton
Russ Gillard
Jeff Kirk
Walter "Bud" Page, Jr.
David Peterson
David Richins
John Storment

Staff Present:

Sue Deck
Melanie Dykstra
Joe Holmwood
Eric Norenberg
Terri Palmberg
Diane Rogers
Bob White

Members Absent:

John Dyer, excused
Dina Lopez, excused
Robin White, excused

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Robert Brinton, Vice Chair.

Approval of Minutes

John Storment said the comments on page 5 (second paragraph) of the September minutes should be attributed to Robin White.

LeRoy Brady made a motion, Russ Gillard seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 18, 2003, with the correction as noted by Storment.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Intergovernmental Agreement

Bob White reported that for over 50 years, the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools (MPS) have had a successful and highly beneficial partnership of sharing facilities. This partnership allows the Parks and Recreation Division to schedule year-round sports and recreational programs for the community at school facilities. In exchange, the City allows MPS access to lighted sports fields, golf courses, recreation centers, pools, tennis courts, the Mesa Centennial Center, and other parks and recreation facilities for school-related or sponsored activities.

The following are examples of the cooperative use of facilities between the City and MPS:

- MPS utilization of swimming pools during instruction periods, with the facilities available for community use after school and on a full-time basis from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

- City-sponsored adult sports programs at junior high school sites.
- City-sponsored elementary sports programs (flag football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and spirit line), which are available to children in grades 4-6.
- City-sponsored junior high intramural and 9th grade activities and sports programs at junior high schools.
- City-sponsored drop-in open gym programs at elementary and junior high school sites.
- MPS use of City facilities (such as Hohokam Stadium, Riverview/Dobson Ranch golf courses, tennis facilities, lighted sports fields, parks, and the Mesa Centennial Center) for school-related activities including tournaments, school-to-school competitions, varsity high school home games, and youth forums.

The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) formalizes the long-standing partnership between the City and MPS and is the culmination of over two years of working together to develop a documented agreement. The IGA sets out a "reciprocal" arrangement in which MPS grants first priority access of school facilities to City and community groups (i.e., City-registered neighborhoods, organized sports leagues, and other groups having cooperative relations agreements with the City) during non-school hours and after scheduling District priority uses. In exchange, the City grants first priority use of City facilities by MPS and other District-sponsored users (i.e., PTA, PSTO, or professional education associations) after scheduling City priority uses and when not governed under a separate joint use agreement.

The IGA also establishes if, when, and how much the parties will charge each other for use of the facilities. The agreement states that it is the intent of the City and MPS to waive all rental fees and only charge each other for direct costs that are over and above normal costs for operating and maintaining facilities. MPS and the City agree that by only charging each other for costs over and above normal operation and maintenance, they are acknowledging the benefit (or value) of the shared facilities and balancing this reciprocal arrangement by allowing the parties to seek reimbursement for additional direct costs.

For clarification, the out-of-pocket costs will remain in effect until such time in the future that the parties mutually agree to amend the out-of-pocket fees and forward their recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Board for approval and City Council action.

White distributed revised information on City fees and out-of-pocket costs.

Gillard asked about the term of the IGA, which is one year with a one-year automatic renewal.

White replied that the term of the agreement is for one year because each agency annually reviews their respective fees, evaluates maintenance and upkeep issues, and determines which facilities are available.

Storment asked about the fiscal impact for out-of-pocket costs.

Joe Holmwood replied that currently the annual out-of-pocket charges by the School District to the City are approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000. Depending on actual use, this amount is expected to increase. Increased funds have been specifically identified during the budget

process, but have never been approved. School utility charges are unknown at the present time, but will be discussed with City staff prior to imposing any charges.

John Storment made a motion, LeRoy Brady seconded, and it was unanimously carried that the City enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Mesa Public Schools (MPS) for the cooperative use of City and MPS facilities. (David Peterson abstained)

Fee Waiver Request

White introduced Eric Norenberg, Special Assistant to the City Manager, and reported that the Desert Club, a fundraising community group, has requested a waiver of the open space fee for use of a retention basin.

Over the past 50 years, the Desert Club has raised over \$1 million for scholarships and community programs. The club provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are in need of financial assistance. In 2003, the Desert Club awarded over \$75,000 in scholarships. The main fundraising mechanism of the Desert Club is the Christmas Idea House.

This year's Christmas Idea House will be held December 4-7, 2003 in a neighborhood adjacent to the retention basin east of Los Alamos Park in the corridor under the power lines. The Desert Club requests the opportunity to park cars in the retention basin. By parking in the basin, the impact on the neighborhood will be minimized.

The club has agreed to place cones and barricades in such a manner as to ensure cars will not be driving near the power poles, trees, etc. in the basin. The club has also agreed to pay for any sprinkler heads that are damaged and to pay up to \$400 for aeration of the turf after the event. In exchange, City staff will test the sprinklers before and after the event and flag the sprinkler heads so that cones may be placed to keep cars off the sprinklers. To further insure the safety of the event, the Desert Club has received the donation of services for this event from American Valet. American Valet has agreed to supply necessary cones, barricades, etc. and ten employees to direct traffic and valet park cars on December 4.

It is estimated that the following numbers of cars will be driven to the event:

- Thursday, December 4 (evening): up to 75 cars valet parked
- Friday, December 5 (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.): 150 cars (75 for each of two luncheons)
- Saturday, December 6 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.): 300 cars
- Sunday, December 7 (8 a.m. to 12 noon): 150 cars

City staff estimates capacity in the basin to be 200 cars between the two sides of the basin. This takes into account avoiding power poles, fire hydrants, trees, headwalls, etc.

In acknowledgement of the charitable nature of this event, the scholarship aid that the Desert Club provides youth in the community, and that the Desert Club has agreed to cover costs for any damage and restoration needed, it is requested that the Parks and Recreation Board waive the \$300 open space fee for use of the basin for parking.

Storment asked if a certificate of insurance is necessary for this event.

Norenberg replied that the Desert Club is obtaining a City Special Event License and has gone through the appropriate permitting process, which includes a certificate of insurance.

Storment asked about the valet service being available for only one evening.

Norenberg replied that the services of the valet company will be available for the entire event; however, cars will be valet parked only on Thursday evening because of a special event.

David Richins asked if the event location changes each year and if the neighborhood has been notified of this year's event.

Norenberg replied that the location varies each year. The Desert Club requested use of the basin because there is no other parking readily available. This is a small gated community and the Desert Club has been asked to notify the neighborhood of the event.

LeRoy Brady made a motion, David Peterson seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the request from the Desert Club for waiver of the open space fee for the Christmas Idea House to be held December 4-7, 2003. (Russ Gillard abstained)

Board Subcommittee

White reported that annually the Division conducts a comprehensive review of its fees and charges, which is required by Administrative Regulation 2.2. Cost recovery has become a vital component for public agencies nation-wide and many conduct similar fee review processes. For the past four years, the Division has utilized the participation and expertise of its Parks Board members, along with staff, for the review process.

The review process is tentatively scheduled as follows:

- November 25, 2003 – review FY02-03 fee adjustment process and discuss the Division's cost recovery philosophy and goals for FY03-04.
- December 11, 2003 – provide status report to the Parks and Recreation Board and receive data from fee survey results of other Valley parks and recreation agencies.
- December 22 (or 29), 2003 – review and discuss staff fee adjustment recommendations for FY04-05; decide on final recommendations to be presented at the January 2004 Board meeting.

Brinton suggested that an agenda item for the subcommittee be enterprise funds.

Holmwood suggested that Bryan Raines, Financial Services Director, be invited to a subcommittee meeting to discuss enterprise funds.

Holmwood said the master plan process includes a model Activity Based Cost (ABC) system, which helps determine the costs to operate programs and activities. The document will be available to the subcommittee.

LeRoy Brady, Russ Gillard, and Bud Page agreed to serve on the fees and charges subcommittee.

White distributed information in preparation for the first subcommittee meeting.

Loyalty Oath

Norenberg said the Loyalty Oath is required of employees, elected officials, and board and commission members. All City of Mesa boards and commissions are being asked to sign the Loyalty Oath, which will be filed with the City Clerk's Office.

Meetings and/or events attended

Storment said the tour of park sites in October was impressive, and believes this tour should be conducted on a continuing basis.

Brinton said the Mesa Storytelling Festival was held on October 24-25 in the open area near the Mesa Arts Center, Mesa Library, and Mesa Centennial Center. The festival was sponsored by the Farnsworth family in conjunction with Fulton Homes; co-hosts were Mesa Public Schools and the City of Mesa. It was a well attended, cooperative effort that will be an annual event.

Peterson asked about the proposed park area at McKellips and Ellsworth adjacent to Zaharis Elementary School.

Holmwood said it is in a state of flux because there are issues with the County relating to the need for a retention basin. The original estimate was that 12 acres would be sufficient but it has now been determined that 30 acres will be needed. The City is trying to have the retention basin designed in such a way that makes it useable for a natural and passive open space area. No funds have been identified in the City budget for the parks part of the project.

Director's Report

Holmwood gave the following reports:

Community Services Department

Holmwood was promoted to the position of Community Services Manager, effective November 4, 2003. The Community Services Department encompasses the divisions of Parks and Recreation, Mesa Library, Centennial Center, and Community Services Administration. The reporting relationship for the Arts and Cultural Division will remain as is, reporting to Deputy City Manager Debbie Dollar, while the Mesa Arts Center construction is underway. Meetings will be held with Human Resources concerning filling the Parks and Recreation Director position.

Agreement with MASD

The City has entered into an agreement with the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled (MASD) for operation of the Broadway Recreation Center. City Council recently took action on the Parks Board's recommendation to enter into this agreement. It is a great partnership for both organizations.

Riverview development

Commercial development is being proposed in the Riverview Park area and the Hurley property area. The development is being called Riverview at Dobson. It is anticipated that Phase I will occur where the current four-diamond softball complex is located. Replacement of that complex will be west of Riverview Golf Course. Because of the federal regulations involved in the original acquisition and/or development of the existing softball area, this land must be replaced with land of equal value. Citizens and neighbors in the area are very supportive of the park and the proposed development.

Mesa Community College (MCC) Downtown Campus

Discussions were recently conducted with MCC representatives concerning MCC's downtown campus concept and how the indoor aquatic center might play a role in that project. City Council has expressed optimism that the facility can be built; however, operating funds are needed. Meetings have been held concerning how MCC might partner with the City operating costs. Staff will also be looking other possible partnerships. The Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau has gone on record as supporting the marketing component of the operations.

Brinton said he and Robin White were at a recent City Council meeting at which timing the placing of a bond issue on the March ballot was discussed. Also, an effort is underway by a group of citizens to place on the ballot an initiative that, if passed, would require voter approval for any capital improvement project costing more than \$1.5 million. This would have a significant impact on all parks and recreation projects. It is obvious that the City of Mesa has significant issues and challenges ahead. The Chamber of Commerce is activating a committee to begin mailings concerning these issues.

Brady reported that the East Valley Rose Garden Society, which has maintained the rose garden at Pioneer Park since 1956, will be planting additional roses that will relate to the pioneers.

Palmberg advised that Merry Main Street will be held December 5, 2003. Board members interested in volunteering should contact her.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph H. Holmwood
Community Services Manager