

## **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 July 11, 2012.

### Members Present:

Kent Bulkley  
John Duclos  
Milt Fort  
Jennifer Madsen  
Cody Spohn  
Niki Tapia  
Ron Wills  
Mark Yarbrough

### Staff Present:

Michael Holste  
Leslie Clark  
Stacy Cheaney-Thompson  
Jo Donovan  
Andrea Moore

### Members Absent:

David Martinez (Excused)  
Bert Millett (Unexcused)  
Kathleen Rahn (Excused)

The meeting was called to order at 4:58 p.m. by Kent Bulkley, Vice Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Kent Bulkley asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the January 11, 2012 Parks Board meeting. Milt Fort made a motion, John Duclos seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Kent Bulkley asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the March 14, 2012 Parks Board meeting. Milt Fort made a motion, John Duclos seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

### **Public Comments:**

None

### **Welcome of new Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Member, Jennifer Madsen:**

Mr. Bulkley asked Jennifer Madsen, new Board member to tell the Board about herself. Jennifer is originally from Salt Lake City, Utah. She is an English teacher at Dobson High School and was a teacher previously at Brimhall Jr. High School. She has lived in Mesa, AZ for 11 years, and wanted to become more involved in the City and felt that this was a good fit for her.

### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Election of Chair and Vice Chair FY 2012-13:**

Mr. Bulkley opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Mark Yarbrough nominated Kent Bulkley for Chair of the Parks Board, Milt Fort seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

Cody Spohn nominated Milt Fort for Vice Chair of the Parks Board, Mark Yarbrough seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

## **PRCF Bond Package Overview:**

Andrea Moore gave an overview of the \$70 million bond package which will be part of the November election. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> Council approved placement on the November ballot of the \$70 million bond package which equates to approximately \$25 dollars per average household per year. There are 17 project sites and \$12 million dollars in renovations to existing sites around the City. All suggestions that were proposed through iMesa would have cost approximately \$131 million. Once all the community meetings were held and the projects were prioritized the amount came down to the \$70 million that will go on the bond election.

Ms. Moore went through the presentation that the board had seen at the previous board meeting to explain the changes that would be seen on the bond. The property restriction with the Federal Government that was around Riverview Park is being exchanged to four sites: Medina and Hawes; Signal Butte and Elliott; McKellips and Ellsworth, and McDowell and Recker Rd. These sites will focus on desert parks, trail systems and more passive amenities.

Community Partnership projects are in conjunction with Mesa Public Schools. The change that was made was the Mesa High pool site was removed and Taylor Jr. High pool will be renovated. The Community Conversion project will be the conversion of Mesa Jr. High into some type of park space. The area around Powell Jr. High will be renovated into the West Mesa Sports Complex.

The funding included in this package is also to design and build Riverview in to a destination park that will complement the new Chicago Cubs stadium. Kleinman Park will tie into the renovations at Powell Jr. High as the West Mesa Sports Complex. The Arizona Museum of Natural History is looking to utilize the Federal Building across the street for additional exhibit space. Greenfield Park renovations include taking the existing lake and making it into a larger urban fishing lake and replacing the playground through a general face-lift on the whole park.

New projects that came through iMesa, include the acquisition of Buckhorn Bath, expanding Monterey Park to the west of the existing park and a downtown urban park.

Bike projects, Transportation Department is the lead on these, they plan to create a connection up by Riverview tying into Town Lake and the Indian Bend wash corridor. The Bike Trail in Southeast Mesa is still not determined as to exactly where it will be.

Mr. Bulkley asked how it was determined that the need was for \$70 million dollars for the Bond package. Ms. Moore explained that is was due to the feedback from the iMesa Community Meetings the Department began to see what the public was most interested in and then making sure projects were spread throughout the City. Ms. Moore explained that the company High Ground is helping to spread the word on the benefits of the Bond package. Ms. Moore explained that the Parks Board will be a big factor in helping to spread the word. Mr. Bulkley said that he is hoping that the Board will work with the residents of the City to help them understand what the projects are and that two dollars a month is a small price to pay to improve the quality of life.

## **Mesa Parks and Recreation Foundation Presentation – Save the Train:**

Linda Abbott and Jim Reese are both on the Save the Train Committee and presented an overview of the Save the Train project. Ms. Abbott gave a history of the first train in Mesa, and shared several pictures of the old train depots and pictures of those that traveled to Mesa to take the train. Southern Pacific was phasing out the old locomotives and Dilworth Brinton helped get a train for the City of Mesa. Ms. Abbott explained why the Save the Train committee

was formed, since the mid 90's the train had to be fenced due to safety issues, so this committee was created in 2008 and their focus is on awareness and raising money to preserve the train. They have a traveling train display and are willing to go to any public event to spread the word on the train. Ms. Abbott explained that they would like to see the train moved to the front of the park in the southwest corner so that those getting on and off the Lightrail can come and visit the train.

**Director's Comments:**

Marc Heirshberg was unable to attend the Board meeting so Mr. Michael Holste gave the Director's Comments:

- Budget Update: Stacy Cheaney–Thompson explained that the budget was adopted by Council on June 25, 2012.
- Chicago Cubs Stadium Discussion: Today was the Chicago Cub's groundbreaking ceremony. Mr. Holste turned it over to Mark Yarborough who presented an overview of the ceremony.
- Accreditation Update: Leslie Clark explained that the Department has embarked on a task of being an accredited agency and what the timeline is and how the audit process works.
- Celebrate Mesa – Mr. Holste wanted to thank everyone for attending the Celebrate Mesa Celebration and said that the event was well attended with lots of positive feedback.
- National Jr. Disabled Games – The games will be held at the end of July at Mesa High School. There will be several athletes in attendance from ages 8 and up.

**Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members:**

Mr. Spohn attended several little league games at several of the City ballparks and he also attended diving and swimming meets at the City pools.

Ms. Tapia attended the You Look Fabulous Fashion Show in Chandler and she attended several of the iMesa Community Meetings and was able to attend the Chicago Cubs Groundbreaking.

Ms. Madsen has attended several swim meets at the City pools.

Mr. Duclos attended the Chicago Cubs Groundbreaking.

Mr. Yarborough attended the Celebrate Mesa Celebration, the Chicago Cubs Groundbreaking and the Little Leagues Allstar games.

Mr. Wills attended the iMesa Community Meeting at Brimhall and the Jr./Sr. Synchro Championship.

Mr. Fort attended the Celebrate Mesa Celebration, the Celebration of Freedom, the Chicago Cubs Groundbreaking and the WAC Baseball Tournament.

Mr. Bulkley attended the iMesa Community meeting at Red Mountain Center, the Celebration of Freedom and the Chicago Cubs Groundbreaking.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Holste for Marc Heirshberg, CPRE  
PRCF Department Director