

Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular/planning meeting at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 100 North Center Street, on September 22, 2005.

Members Present:

LeRoy Brady
Russ Gillard
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Don Goodrum
Jeff Kirk
Dina Lopez
Walter "Bud" Page
Marilyn Wilson

Staff Present:

Tim Barnard
Joe Holmwood
Mike Holste
Terri Palmberg
Diane Rogers
Bob White
Sherry Woodley

Members Absent:

John Dyer, excused
Bernadine Mooney, unexcused

Items on the agenda were discussed out of order but for reasons of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Bud Page, FY04-05 Vice Chair.

Welcome New Board Members

Mr. Page welcomed Don Goodrum to the Board. Marilyn Wilson was not present at this time and was welcomed later in the meeting.

Election of Officers

Jeff Kirk made a motion, LeRoy Brady seconded, and it was unanimously carried to elect Bud Page as Chair for FY05-06.

Russ Gillard made a motion, Dina Lopez seconded, and it was unanimously carried to elect Connie Gullatt-Whiteman as Vice Chair for FY05-06.

Approval of Minutes

Connie Gullatt-Whiteman made a motion, LeRoy Brady seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 24, 2005.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Meetings and/or Events Attended

Mr. Gillard reported that he attended the Board Member Orientation meeting on September 12, 2005. Information discussed included interacting with the media and the Open Meeting Law. The orientation was hosted by the Mayor's Office and was very informative.

Ms. Wilson reported that she attended the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) Boards and Commissions Day on September 1, 2005 and the Kleinman Wheels Court dedication on September 13, 2005.

Mr. Page reported that he also attended the Kleinman Wheels Court dedication. In attendance at this event were City Council members, representatives from Fox Sports Net (which donated funds for the project), and about 300 citizens.

A video of a newscast about the Kleinman dedication was shown to Board members.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman reported that she attended the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation reception on August 23, 2005 and also the Board Member Orientation on September 12, 2005.

The regular meeting adjourned.

Mr. Page called the planning meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

Board Member Introductions

Terri Palmberg led an ice breaker exercise with Board members, which involved drawing pictures in response to the following questions: 1) What do you do for a living? 2) Where were you born and raised? 3) What do you do in your leisure time?

Notebook Material

Bob White reviewed the following material contained in the three-ring binder prepared for Board members: information pertaining to the current meeting; Board member roster; staff phone numbers and email addresses; organizational charts and mission statements for the City and Division; Board responsibility areas; role of the Board; Mesa City Code concerning creation and powers/duties of the Board; Boardmanship; The Benefits of Parks and Recreation; newspaper articles/division information on current programs and issues; and informational brochures.

Policy Review

Mr. White reviewed the Board meeting schedule for FY05-06, advising that the dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Staff's objective is to mail meeting information to the Board a week prior to each meeting.

Also reviewed were Division Administrative Regulations for 1) Fees and Charges and 2) Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities and Special Areas. The Board was advised to become familiar with the Wireless Communications Design and Placement Guidelines for Parks and Recreational Facilities. Two requests were received last fiscal year to place wireless facilities in parks and it is likely more requests will be received in the future.

Update on City Issues

Joe Holmwood expressed staff's appreciation to the Board for their commitment as a board member and for not only attending board meetings but also for keeping current on what is happening in Mesa and attending various events.

The Parks and Recreation Board was created by City Charter many years ago and even though its title does not contain the word "advisory, it is the board's responsibility to advise the City Council on policy issues. Board members can become "cheerleaders" for parks and recreation by using their sphere of influence to be advocates for parks and recreation.

It is important for board members to become knowledgeable on various issues in the City of Mesa. Board members' interactions with City Council members are also important because the Board advises the City Council and Council has the ultimate decision on policy issues regarding parks and recreation.

Mr. Holmwood reported that about 18 months ago, the Mayor appointed a committee to look into how the City is financed. It is a difficult issue since the East Valley has changed and financing of the City is not what it was 10-15 years ago. The committee completed its assignment last week and made a presentation to City Council on September 19. (Copies of Mesa 2025: Financing the Future Committee Final Report [September 2005] were distributed to Board members.)

There was no discussion by City Council at the September 19 presentation; the report will be discussed at a City Council retreat in October. City Council will make the ultimate decision as to what recommendations will be considered. Two of the recommendations are 1) initiating a property tax, and 2) continuing the Quality of Life tax. Both of these recommendations would require a vote by Mesa citizens.

If City Council decides to go forward with a tax initiative, it will appear on the ballot probably in May 2006. If the initiative fails, the City of Mesa budget will be out of synch by \$36-40 million and would result in cutting major services in all departments.

The role the Board can play if a bond initiative is on the ballot in 2006 is that Board members can support the initiative as individuals but not as a Board. Board members can educate the public but not promote issues since the Board is an extension of City Council. Staff will continue to bring information to the Board throughout the fiscal year.

Mr. Holmwood further reported that an article in the September 2005 *Parks and Recreation* magazine about getting information to the public via web sites named four cities for quality web services: Seattle, Cincinnati, Wichita, and Mesa. Mesa and Seattle were also recognized for excellent interactive site maps.

Board Chair Comments

Mr. Page requested that Board members update personal information, if needed, on the roster (which was circulated). An updated roster will be available at the October Board meeting.

Regarding meeting attendance, Mr. Page said members need to attend all meetings and be prepared by reading the material and contacting staff with questions. It was also recommended that Board members visit the sites that will be discussed at the Board meeting.

Mr. Page requested that staff continue to send updates on parks and recreation activities. He asked that Board members attend some of the activities and report on them. Staff has been asked to continue to schedule board meetings outside of the regular day, time and/or location and to also provide status reports at subsequent meetings on recommendations made by the Board.

Mr. Page reminded board members of an opportunity to attend the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Conference Listening Session at 3:30 p.m. today; no registration is required and the session will focus on principles that will guide Arizona's growth in the coming years.

Staff Briefings

Ms. Palmberg provided personal information and reported that she is Assistant Parks and Recreation Director for the Maintenance/Operations subsection. Her major areas of responsibility are park/basin maintenance, the aquatics program, and the park ranger program. She reported on highlights for FY04-05 and FY05-06 and challenges for FY05-06.

Mike Holste provided personal information and reported that he is Assistant Parks and Recreation Director for the Facilities/Programs subsection. His major areas of responsibility are recreation centers, sports programs, recreation programs, special events, and the volunteer program. He reported on highlights for FY04-05 and FY05-06 and challenges for FY05-06.

Mr. Holste highlighted several awards that were received recently 1) Paul King, Recreation Coordinator, APRA Young Professional Award; 2) the Mesa Pow Wow, APRA Outstanding Program Award; 3) and Gene Autry Tennis Center, USTA Outstanding Tennis Facility.

Sherry Woodley provided personal information and reported that she is Management Assistant for the Administrative Services subsection. Her major areas of responsibility include providing support to division staff, accounting/financial (including budget), and registration/reservation services. She reported on highlights for FY04-05 and FY05-06 and challenges for FY05-06.

Tim Barnard provided personal information and reported that he is Management Support Administrator for Community Services Department. His major areas of responsibility are the Capital Improvement and Bond programs and strategic/master planning development and implementation. He reported on highlights for FY04-05 and FY05-06 and challenges for FY05-06.

Parks Board Work Plans

The Board reviewed the final status of its FY04-05 Work Plan. In a brainstorming session, Board members suggested the following topics to be considered for the FY05-06 work plan:

- lighting of additional fields
- dogs in parks
- use of parks by charter schools
- privatizing facilities
- vacant land west of Pioneer Park
- lighting at parks to control use
- shade structures for play areas
- periodic reviews of strategic plans
- tour of parks and recreation facilities

Staff will develop a draft work plan for Board review at the October meeting.

Parliamentary Rules

Ms. Palmberg reviewed the Parliamentary Rules, which were included in the Board notebooks, highlighting the following information:

- Acting on one item at a time.
- Majority rules.
- If not comfortable taking action, a committee can be established to review and bring back to the next meeting.

- If the board cannot make a decision, the agenda item can be tabled until the next meeting
- Chair does not vote except in the case of a tie.
- Chair is the moderator.
- Questions are addressed prior to a motion being made (at the time a report and recommendation are made).
- A motion then progresses in the following manner: 1) motion is made; 2) motion is seconded; 3) board discussion ensues; 4) board votes. A board member must abstain, citing conflict of interest, when he/she will benefit monetarily from an action.

Director's Report

Mr. White reported that City Council will be holding a planning retreat on October 6, 2006. Council will be provided scenarios by City departments concerning cuts that would have to be made if the tax initiative does not pass for their consideration and prioritization.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob White
Parks and Recreation Director