

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 March 14, 2012.

Members Present:

Matthew Shaffer - Chair
John Duclos
Kathleen Rahn

Members Absent:

Kent Bulkley
Milt Fort
David Martinez
Bert Millett
Cody Spohn
Niki Tapia
Ron Wills
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg, Director
Leslie Clark
Andrea Moore
J.D. Dockstader
Mike Holste
Stacy Cheaney-Thompson
Alice Kirk
Jo Donovan

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Matthew Shaffer, Chair. With no quorum present no action was taken.

Approval of Minutes

Tabled to the May 9, 2012 Meeting

Public Comments – None

Introduction of Staff: Alice Kirk, Financial Specialist

iMesa Presentation:

Kathy Macdonald Mayors' Chief of Staff appeared on behalf of Mayor Scott Smith and the iMesa Steering Committee and introduced the iMesa Steering Committee members that was present; Kay Henry, Karen Frias-Long, Bill Puffer, John Schroeder and Mark Schofield, Chair. Ms. Macdonald explained that they were meeting with several committees and boards. A year ago Ms. Macdonald appeared before the Parks Board to present the launch of the iMesa Steering Committee. Over the last year the citizen committee has been hard at work gathering input from residents through village meetings throughout the City where residents were asked to share their ideas for Mesa. The ideas ranged from big items such as transportation ideas and parks ideas, as well as little items such as the way their trash is picked up to other City process'. Currently there are over a 1,000 registered users on the iMesa website. iMesa Committee chose to focus on 3 of the areas that the public deemed as community priorities, one of which was parks and recreational access. The iMesa Steering Committee is now coming to the Parks Board because several of these ideas that are recommended need to be pushed forward. Ms. Macdonald turned the presentation over to Mark Schofield, chair of the iMesa committee. Mr. Schofield thanked the board for allowing them to come and share and explained that there were hundreds of ideas that came forward from the public, they were categorized and one of the areas that was very talked about was Parks and Recreation. The Mayor's Youth Committee made a presentation to the Mayor and the City Council and one of the ideas was a Botanical Garden and Aviary at Pioneer Park. This was a great idea to tie a parks project into the downtown area. The next idea, although not Parks and Recreation related, was an idea to bring the Mesa Historical Museum from Lehi to downtown Mesa to keep all museums together. Next was a trailhead from Rio Salado to Bush Highway, to allow for a great interconnection

recreational access. Buckhorn Baths was the number one vote getter. The Preservation Committee is very excited and willing to move forward with this project.

A pools project carries a lot of weight with the Council, the possibility of a downtown aquatic center, which might have to be a private/public partnership. The Mayor and City Council asked that we come up with some ideas on how to provide some of these ideas and how to finance them.

The Mesa Public Schools have some schools that will be closing the iMesa Steering Committee would like to see community gathering facilities with recreational activities at these schools.

One of the ideas to get citizens more information on parks and recreation was having an App for smart phones that allow members an updated map on all parks and other things the community has. To encourage youth participation with smart phone apps, the thought is to have the possibility of receiving a credit when they scan a QR Code at different locations throughout the City and the possibility of working with the downtown retailers to turn in the credits as they shop in the downtown area.

Completing the downtown community garden also had a lot of interest.

Bill Puffer explained that one of the interests from the west side of town was the Mesa Jr. West Side Sports Complex.

John Schroeder explained that they would like to see a trails master plan so that you can move from one park to another to create an interesting trail network. Also, there is an interest in the canals to be used as trails. Mr. Schofield explained that a number of wishes by the community were quality of life projects.

Mr. Shaffer asked if Kathleen Rahn had any comments, she explained that there needs to be more communication between the different boards and committees. Ms. Rahn explained that when she arrived on the Board she also did not realize all of the different areas that were available to public.

John Duclos explained that he was very excited to see interconnection between areas and that he is looking forward to how the youth can be connected. Mr. Duclos asked about the Gateway Airport area, and Mr. Schofield explained that there is some growth out there and that there are projects before the Council at this time. Mr. Heirshberg explained that staff is currently working with DMB to develop a Park Master plan at Eastmark.

Mr. Schofield explained that he has seen the excitement with all of the projects and with everyone being on the same page to make Mesa a great place to live and it is very exciting.

Ms. Macdonald explained that at this time the Mayor is looking for the Parks Board to move quickly on appointing a subcommittee so that recommendations can get back to Council so that if funds are needed, they can go forward quickly.

Mr. Shaffer thanked the iMesa committee and explained that he was impressed by the different ideas that the community came forward with. Mr. Shaffer also explained that he was also very appreciative of the PRCF staff that is working a lot more with a lot less. He is also very excited for the botanical garden and the interconnecting trails and hopes they can be used in upcoming triathlons. He mentioned that in his 3 years on the Parks Board that he sees more passion from citizens for dog parks more than anything else and he would like to see more dog parks in our upcoming plans.

Mr. Heirshberg explained that a sub-committee needs to be appointed so that things can move forward quickly. Mr. Heirshberg explained what the subcommittee would be responsible for and that recommendations would need to be to Council by the end of May. Prior to the meeting staff will send a link to the subcommittee of the site plans so that some email discussion can occur prior to meeting. Mr. Heirshberg explained that a meeting would be best held the first week of April. Ms. Kathleen Rahn, Mr. John Duclos, and Mr. Matt Shaffer volunteered to be on the subcommittee with the first meeting being held on April 4th at 5:00 p.m.

PRCF Budget Discussion:

Discussion has been tabled to May meeting.

Appointment of a City of Mesa General Plan Committee Representative:

Mr. Shaffer will be in contact with Kent Bulkley to see if he will be available to sit on the Mesa General Plan Committee which is a citizen committee from Boards across the City. They will meet monthly and it is a long-term commitment.

Marketing:

- Spring and Summer Activity Guide has been distributed in the East Valley Tribune to help people locate our website to
- 2010/2011 Annual Report which will on our website and sent out to some of our partners.

Chair Comments:

Mr. Shaffer has asked that his comments be tabled to the May Meeting.

Director's Comments

- Fees and Charges Updates: Changes were approved, Council did modify the Board's recommendation with regard to the Family Pass, and Council asked that we write a policy.
- Spring Training/New Stadium Update: We're in week 2 of games, game attendance has been good. The new stadium continues to move forward. Council will see drawings in executive sessions and will be released to the public in the next few weeks.
- Gold Medal Initiative Update: This is a goal that we have set for the Department promoting 2012 as the year we go for the gold, a play on the words because of the Olympics. This is a stepping stone for our accreditation process.
- Washington Activity Center Update: Council did approve a license agreement with Edu-Prize effective July 1st.
- Riverview Update: Last day of golf is Sunday, March 18th. April 2nd Riverview Park will close to the public. Moving and boxing the trees is a four month process and then the large
- Calendar of Events (update on past/present events) –

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

John Duclos: Drop-In at the RMC, excellent staff and beautiful facility.

Matt Shaffer: Visited the MAC Center.

Kathleen Rahn: Visited the MAC to purchase tickets for an upcoming event.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRP
PRCF Department Director