

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 100 N. Center Street, Mesa on October 12, 2006.

Members Present:

LeRoy Brady
Russ Gillard
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Jeff Kirk
David Martinez
Walter "Bud" Page, Jr.
Marilyn Wilson

Staff Present:

Mike Holste
Cindy Hunt
Mary Lindemuth
Andrea Moore
Scot Rigby
Jenny Sheppard

Members Absent:

Reggie Dye, excused
Jeff Kirk, unexcused
Dina Lopez, excused
Bernadine Mooney, excused

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Bud Page, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Connie Gullatt-Whiteman requested that her and Ms. Dina Lopez's attendance at the APRA Conference in August 2006 be reflected in the September 2006 minutes. Mr. Russ Gillard moved to accept the minutes from the meeting of September 14, 2006 as amended. Mr. LeRoy Brady seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Sheila Mitton submitted a public comment card and addressed the Board. Ms. Mitton expressed her appreciation for the work of Assistant Director Terri Palmberg and Foundation President Robin White. She stated that she believes in Parks & Recreation staff and would like to see better public definition of their role. The division has "been on the chopping block for the past four years" while programs continue to be, in her opinion, impressive. While disturbed by a letter printed in the newspaper regarding the Veteran's Day parade, she stated that she supports staff. Ms. Mitton expressed hope that the Board would continue to support Parks staff and help improve recognition.

Chair's Comments

Chair Bud Page read a letter from the HoHoKams addressed to the Foundation for Parks & Recreation. The HoHokam organization donated a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the Foundation for the continuation of the popular Making Waves swim program for Summer 2007. Mr. Russ Gillard accepted the check on behalf of the Foundation and thanked the HoHoKams. Mr. Page reported that a funding request to the HoHoKams for a dog park had been made and was unfortunately declined.

Mr. Page responded to a request from David Martinez for the Parks Board meeting schedule. Management Assistant I Mary Lindemuth promised to provide the Board with copies.

Finalize Board FY 2006-07 Workplan

Edits to the 2006-07 Workplan measures included:

- Adding Riverview Park as a potential meeting location.
- Staff will notify Board members via email or telephone to alert them to relevant City Council sessions where Board members might wish to speak.
- Tour of Aquatic facilities scheduled for November 9, 2006.
- Review of the 2025 Plan target review date changed to the November 9, 2006 meeting.
- Table the measure requesting that staff map park sites for future land acquisition due to current fiscal restraints.
- Adding a staff provided timeline early in the budget process so that the Board may review. Staff to provide in January or February 2007, or as soon as documents become available.
- Adding Carson Pool to the list of aquatic tour sites.
- Assistant Director Mike Holste to ask a Mesa Public Schools representative to address Board regarding joint use issues.

During the Workplan discussion of the Fees and Charges review measure, three Board members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, to be established with staff participants. Board members serving are Reggie Dye, LeRoy Brady and Russ Gillard.

Mr. Russ Gillard moved that the Board adopt the workplan as amended. Mr. Don Goodrum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Special Events

Acting Parks & Recreation Director Jenny Sheppard reported that while recommendations have been submitted to the City Attorney, an opinion has not yet been returned. Recommendations included the use of a criteria form and the Board approved recommendation of adding non-profit organization and prior experience within Mesa to the rating criteria template. Mr. Page asked whether overall dollars spent in Mesa would be used as criteria. David Martinez qualified Mr. Page's question by stating that the criteria would be for the benefit of Mesa. Ms. Sheppard responded that policy is currently being drafted in the form of an administrative regulation. When ready, it will be sent to the Special Events subcommittee for review.

Discussion ensued as to the amount of time required to plan an event. Recreation Supervisor Cindy Hunt stated that ideally a nine month leeway provided sufficient time to successfully host an event. Cinco de Mayo, for example, requires applications to be received by December at the latest.

Marilyn Wilson expressed that, in her view, the City Manager correctly stated that the City of Mesa must be involved in safety issues, parade routes, barricades, etc. Ms. Sheppard explained that Licensing sends out permit applications. In the past, Parks and

Recreation staff monitored the process to ensure that all steps were carried out and the details in order. Mr. Martinez stated that the burden must be placed on the applicant to provide documentation as to event evaluation or track complaints. Licensing, though, does have the ability to note comments on their system. Ms. Hunt replied that the contract landscapers provide feedback after events. Mr. Martinez replied that he would like staff to provide event evaluations to the Board as a regular part of staff updates. Ms. Sheppard stated that the Special Events subcommittee will be on the November agenda to report and that the administrative regulation will also be distributed.

Update on Aquatics

Ms Sheppard provided Rhodes and Kino pool renovation schedules. Currently in the consultant selection phases, both are targeted to open in late summer or fall of 2008. - The Taylor and Poston pools rehabilitation timeline runs later. Those renovations are expected to be completed by summer of 2009.

Council has place outdoor pool plans on hold. Current thinking is that amenities could possibly be added to the Smith pool. Staff will provide alternatives to the Council. Funding is present, however a new pool would still be two years out.

Reports on Meetings

Mr. Russ Gillard announced that he attended a Stonebridge development meeting. Located in the McKellips/Ellsworth area, a site plan for a park in that area exists. Mr. Gillard stated that the City of Mesa could request that the park be built, as the developer, he believes, has petitioned to not build one. Mr. Martinez suggested that Planning be called for information. Acting Management Support Administrator Andrea Moore concurred, will follow up and report back to the Board in November.

Staff Updates

Assistant Director Mike Holste introduced Cindy Hunt to update the Board regarding the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled (MASD), which partners with the Parks and Recreation Division. Recent winner of the prestigious Pat Tillman award, MASD, a 401 c 3 organization, offers over 30 different sports. Ms. Hunt noted that programmer Susan Rossi, who works with MASD, has been very active in the Paralympic committee. St. Joseph's Hospital Recreation Therapy Department will be hosting the Arizona Paralympic Academy and Disability Sports Expo on October 28 at the ASU Student Recreation Center. This annual one-day event will include informational vendor booths, adaptive sports and recreation instruction, and live demonstration of sports for people with physical disabilities. The event is open to the public to stop by any time throughout the day to educate themselves about sports and recreation opportunities available to people with physical disabilities.

Ms. Hunt announced that the PowerBlast Regional Power Soccer Tournament will be held at ASU on November 9th, 10th and 11th. PowerBlast is an annual Power Soccer Tournament hosted by MASD in the Fall season as part of the Desert Challenge series of competitions for athletes with physical disabilities. Any athlete with a permanent physical disability involved in the sport of Power Soccer can participate in the tournament. Mesa is the West Regional Host and Atlanta, Georgia the East Regional Host. Tournament competition includes one-on-one competition, Division I Play and

Division II Play. Athletes arrive from all across the United States and Canada, providing Mesa economic impact.

Mistletoe Mania, MASD's 25th anniversary dance with 300 Special Olympics athletes will be held December 16th at the Chandler Senior Center. MASD's annual fundraiser, which raises 50% of the budget, took place Saturday, October 7th at the Phoenix Marriot in Mesa. It included a silent auction, dinner and dancing.

Mr. Holste invited the Board to "test drive" the eight newly leased pieces of equipment at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center. Two exercise bikes and six elliptical machines have been installed. It is more cost effective to lease equipment than it is to own; so this is a new direction for the Center. Two flyers were distributed, one for the Thursday, October 26th Pumpkin Fest, one for the Saturday, December 16th Breakfast With Santa. Both events will happen at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center. Call to reserve tickets, all are welcome!

The Webster and Jefferson Recreation Center Fall Fests are scheduled for October 27th and October 28th, respectively. A "parents day out" will be held two days in December, the 2nd and 9th, at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center. For a \$20 fee, children are provided activities, games and lunch. It's a terrific chance for parents to get Christmas shopping done, as well as enjoy a day without the kids!

Mr. Holste reported that there are 800 participants in the Jr. High Intramurals. The After School program currently runs at 30 elementary sites with 1,600 children enrolled.

The consolidation of sports officials is underway and proving tougher than thought to implement. The goal is to have a clearinghouse of 150 officials who may be called upon to referee.

The upcoming Soccer Tournaments on October 21st and 22nd feature 450 adult teams who hail from all over the country. All of Mesa's sports fields are booked, including Autry, Hohokam and Fitch. A Father/Son division will play. Interested Board members may contact Mr. Holste for viewing.

And, finally, Mr. Holste noted that cross country meets will take place at Red Mountain on October 19th and 20th at 7:00 AM.

Assistant Director Terri Palmberg was out of town, so Mr. Holste updated the Board on activities in her areas of responsibility. The Girls Scouts of America sponsored a Pinwheels for Peace at the Dobson Ranch Park. Colorful pictures of the event were passed around. A meeting regarding the Pioneer Park Steam Train will be held with the Chandler Rail Museum. Another meeting is scheduled on November 8th with the Mesa Rotary Club. The Board subcommittee will reconvene in November.

Mr. Holste reported that Mesa has one of the largest senior softball league programs in the country, 50 teams of 60-80 year old men and women. The numbers of softball leagues have remained steady, with no decline. Mr. Gillard asked if the increased fee structure had made an impact. Mr. Holste replied that due to staff reorganization costs had declined so that fees have been kept the same.

Andrea Moore reported on behalf of Sherry Woodley, who accepted a six month assignment in Commercial Facilities. Parks is now experiencing the effects of decreased numbers of park rangers. Without rangers to enforce ramada reservations, complaints and conflicts have arisen. Sponsorships and naming rights for special events has kicked off and is now in the beginning phases. Cash handling training for staff is upcoming. The aim is to be consistent across all programs.

Director's Report

Jenny Sheppard informed the Board that a new process for temporary staff and related timekeeping is being implemented.

Management Assistant II Scot Rigby spoke to the evolving events surrounding Riverview Park. The Larry Miller Auto group has withdrawn their proposal for an auto mall on park land. Current plans for an auto mall west of Dobson Road proceed apace. Discussions are underway with Waveyard, a waterpark company. Waveyard is also in discussions with another valley city. A Waveyard water park site in Ashville, North Carolina hosts training for the US Olympic teams. It features snorkeling, surfing, kayaking and other water sports. Such a development targets customers from the entire west coast, not just local residents.

Mr. Rigby noted that the City has no "for sale" sign on the park! Due to the intersection and proximity of two major freeways, though, the land has increased in value so that it has become very attractive to commercial development. Proposals are made and the City then responds. Waveyard has been advised that the neighbors must be agreeable to such a development. Meetings are planned to obtain neighborhood feedback and, based on the response, the outcome will be determined. The Mesa Grande neighborhood group and Dave Richins have been invited. Mr. Rigby stated that the pond is not part of the discussion. Marilyn Wilson said that she believes that the developer has requested more land. Mr. Rigby responded that the process is yet early. And, the pond is not part of the discussion. Bass Pro shops and fishing have a presence in the area.

Connie Gullatt-Whiteman asked that if the golf course and fields are not used, would other parts of the City of Mesa have input, not just west Mesa residents? Ms. Sheppard responded that if the process continues to go forward, it would be appropriate for City Manager Chris Brady to address the Board. Mr. Rigby thanked the Board.

Mr. Page recognized resident Sheila Mitton who addressed the Board. She supported Parks staff, commented on the Riverview proposal and thanked the Board.

Russ Gillard made the motion to adjourn. Connie Gullatt-Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Sheppard
Acting Parks and Recreation Director