

## **Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session at Parks and Recreation, 200 South Center Street, Mesa, on January 12, 2011.

### Members Present:

Kent Bulkley  
Don Goodrum  
Steve Ikeda  
David Martinez  
Bert Millett  
Kathleen Rahn  
Marilyn Wilson  
Ron Wills  
Mark Yarbrough

### Staff Present:

Marc Beasley  
Dawn Bies  
Stacy Cheaney-Thompson  
J.D. Dockstader  
Brandon Erno  
Dale Furnas  
Marc Heirshberg  
Mike Holste  
Andrea Moore

### Members Absent:

Milt Fort, excused  
Matt Shaffer, excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by Mark Yarbrough, Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Yarbrough asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the November 10, 2010 Parks Board meeting. Kent Bulkley made a motion, Ron Wills seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Mr. Yarbrough asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the December 1, 2010 Fees and Charges Subcommittee meeting. Kathleen Rahn made a motion, Mr. Wills seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **Staff introductions**

Marc Heirshberg introduced Dale Furnas, Management Assistant II and Andrea Moore, PRCF Planning and Development Supervisor, to the new Board members who hadn't met them previously. Mike Holste introduced Brandon Erno, the new Aquatics & Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

### **Make recommendation and take action on Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Schedule for FY 2010/11 & 2011/12.**

Mr. Heirshberg clarified that non-resident fees were added to each program category instead of just a general statement by each category. He shared that the Board had received a packet with the fee changes highlighted, some verbiage changes, and adding non-resident fees.

Don Goodrum asked about youth sports leagues. Mr. Heirshberg said that the junior high school sports program previously run by the city was taken over by the school district. The city is now introducing sports programs for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and under students, and has to establish fees for those new programs. Funds were budgeted previously for the programs the school took over; this funding will be used for the new programs being established.

Mr. Holste added that the city is trying to offer a structured program for all ages, with fees similar to the previous fees.

Ms. Rahn added that staff did a very thorough job and went through each fee change with the subcommittee members.

Mr. Heirshberg said the next step will be presentation to City Council's Audit & Finance Committee, then to the full Council for adoption at end of March. He added that a new state law was passed requiring a public notice and public posting for any fee changes a city makes in Arizona. It requires a 60 day notice before action is taken. The City's webpage will have a link that says the City is considering making changes to the Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Department. If approved today, the link will go live tomorrow and the link will take people to the chart given out to the Board showing the changes.

Mr. Bulkley asked how the fee changes affected the total revenue projections. Ms. Cheaney-Thompson said it will add approximately \$86,000 for recreation programs only. Mr. Heirshberg added that the fees for Commercial Facilities don't have to go through the Board for approval and go straight to Council; however, staff shares them with the Board and gets feedback before taking them to Council. The fees for approval before the Board are recreation fees.

Mr. Yarbrough asked for a motion for approval of the revised Fees & Charges schedule. Mr. Wills made a motion, David Martinez seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the revised Fees and Charges schedule.

### **Take action on Youth Sports Field Use Policy**

Mr. Yarbrough told the Board the purpose of this policy being put together is to solidify what the City should be doing to allocate fields for all users. He reminded the Board that the draft policy had been given to them at the November 2010 meeting and no changes were made. Mr. Heirshberg said one question received was regarding what category the Mesa Public Schools fall under. He added that the intent of the policy is for each group to fall under a category and that each category is defined in Administrative Regulation 5.1. Mr. Goodrum asked what policy was in place currently. Mr. Yarbrough added that there was a guideline put together by the former Youth Sports liaison which had never been adopted formally by the Board. Mr. Heirshberg added the previous document established seasons that were no longer relevant and this document would give the sports groups additional opportunity to use the fields.

Mr. Ikeda asked if there had been problems with field allocation. Mr. Yarbrough answered that there had been a few issues but this document would help establish specific guidelines and priorities for all.

Ms. Wilson asked about the challenges staff have trying to administer this policy. Mr. Heirshberg said he has received comments about the fields being empty half the time, which are normally during the time kids are in school or when it is extremely hot outside. He said there were not enough fields available between 3-9 p.m. for these teams. The policy will give priority to the seasons teams play. This also gives the leagues an opportunity to expand their seasons of play. He told the Board there was a staff member, Josh Adams, who coordinates

field usage with the community youth groups. Mr. Yarbrough added that the policy also establishes guidelines for profit/non-profit usage. Mr. Holste added that schools take priority for usage of school fields until 6 p.m.

Mr. Goodrum asked for clarification on Page 5 regarding the statement “school facilities *must* be used as the primary claimant before scheduling Mesa facilities.” Mr. Yarbrough said users should try and use school fields within their boundaries prior to using fields in another area to maintain balance in all areas of the city. Mr. Goodrum suggested changing verbiage from *must* to *should* on Page 5, paragraph 2 of the Field Use Policy if there is potential for users to be scheduled at a location outside their normal boundaries.

Mr. Martinez asked who makes the final decision. Mr. Heirshberg said Josh Adams schedules both the school and city fields. If a conflict arises, city would get all users together to work out a solution for all.

Mr. Bulkley asked if the city was co-insured. Mr. Yarbrough said both the city and the user had to be listed on the insurance policy with the City as additional insured prior to a permit being issued. Mr. Yarbrough said it was listed on the permit form.

Mr. Goodrum made a motion to approve the Field Use Policy as amended, Page 5, paragraph 2 “School facilities must be used as the primary playing site before scheduling City of Mesa facilities”, changing verbiage *must* to *should*. Mr. Ikeda seconded and the motion was carried.

### **Make recommendation and take action on changes to city code and ordinances regarding dogs in parks**

Mr. Heirshberg told the Board that staff had been taking citizen input regarding allowing leashed dogs in parks for the past eleven months. He said staff had received 26 comments online and 2 written comments from citizens. He added that staff is recommending the Board approve allowing leashed dogs in parks with the exception of playgrounds, sports fields, sports courts and ramadas. This would be a code ordinance change to be reviewed by legal counsel, Community and Neighborhood Services Council Committee, and then to the City Council for adoption.

Ms. Wilson made a motion for approval of staff’s recommendation to change city code/ordinance allowing leashed dogs in city parks except for on playgrounds, sports fields, sports courts or in ramadas; Mr. Martinez seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

### **Hear Playful City USA update**

Ms. Moore gave the Board an update on Playful City USA. She said items being worked on included:

- Community Day of Play, Pioneer Park - staff will be asking the Mayor to proclaim February 26, 2011 an official “Day of Play” in the city.
- Staff is working on renovations to be done on the playground at Princess Park, northeast of Brown and Greenfield Roads; staff will hold a neighborhood meeting with residents to receive input on amenities at the park, as soon as conceptual drawings are completed.
- Staff is trying to put in a playground at Golden Hills Park; this could possibly be a community build playground. More information will be provided when received.
- Mesa Public Schools will be working with city staff on an inventory of play spaces open to the public during non-school hours. Staff will post the list on our website to highlight publically accessible play spaces when received.

- The City's Planning Department is working on a Main Street Area Plan related to the Light Rail corridor as it is developed. They are looking at public spaces and open spaces which could be incorporated as the area is developed. This could include trails, gathering spots, possibly even playgrounds and/or pocket parks in the central Mesa corridor.

### **Director's Comments**

- Accreditation: Staff is working on becoming accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA); this helps identify a series of standards to show that Mesa is following best practices available for municipal parks and recreation agencies. Staff has filed the initial application; this is a two year process. He told the Board that Ms. Furnas would be leading this process towards accreditation. Ms. Furnas said Mesa Police and Fire departments are accredited and PRCF would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> department in the city to become accredited. This process will involve supervisors from PRCF, as well as staff from other city departments. Staff has spoken with Tucson staff regarding their recent accreditation process and will be visiting with Tucson Parks & Recreation staff to learn about best practices for accreditation. Currently Glendale, Tucson, and Scottsdale have accredited parks and recreation departments.

Mr. Goodrum asked who the accrediting agency was and the cost of accreditation. Ms. Furnas replied National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). She said they would send a team to evaluate the department's information. Mr. Heirshberg said the cost to the department for this process is approximately \$4,000.

- Cubs update:
  - Pitchers and catchers report on February 13. There are 17 Spring Training home games scheduled in 2011, plus two charity events, Fergie & Friends Celebrity game will be on March 17 and the Cubs vs. Cubs (major leaguers vs. minor league all stars) game will be on March 30.
  - Cubs stadium – RFQ for architects, land planners, etc. is on the street and due back February 3. The selection team will consist of the Mesa City Manager, City Engineer, Marc Heirshberg (PRCF Director), and Todd Ricketts, Mark McGwire and Steve Jacobsen from the Cubs organization. The goal is to award the project at the beginning of March. Groundbreaking deadline unknown.
- Parks & Recreation 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - City is working on a new logo to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of parks and recreation in Mesa. There will be special promotions and events throughout the year to highlight 75 years of service.
- Calendar of events:
  - Blues Blast (February 19), Black Keys (April 16), Wingstock (April 9) events at Mesa Amphitheatre.
- Headlines –
  - Copper Wire Thefts – Thefts have slowed down a little recently; past week was first week since July with no wire thefts for Mesa. Recent arrests have been made in Mesa and Chandler.
  - East Mesa parks – Recent articles published about the amount of vacant parkland in east Mesa. Staff is working on building a playground at Golden Hills Park, 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Pueblo.
  - Mayor's State of the City Breakfast on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Phoenix. Mayor will unveil a program that addresses the quality of life for citizens in Mesa.

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

Bert Millett attended Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation meeting. He said the Triathlon Race event has been moved from April 9<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held at the ASU Polytechnic campus. He also mentioned the Community Day of Play event will have volunteer opportunities available.

Mr. Bulkley attended the Community Day of Play event at Carriage Lane Park.

Ms. Rahn attended Fees and Charges subcommittee meetings and Breakfast with Santa event.

Mr. Ikeda District 3 Pancake Breakfast on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wills attended aquatic events at Kino Aquatic Facility; 13 colleges sent athletes to train at Kino, with a requirement of staying at hotels/motels in Mesa.

Mr. Goodrum participated in Turkey Trot event at Red Mountain Park.

Mr. Yarbrough attended various Little League events.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRP  
PRCF Department Director