

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Advisory 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 November 9, 2016.

Members Present:

Steve Crider
John Duclos
Matt Erickson
Jaime Glasser
Trevor Hansen
Alicia Kracht
Jennifer Madsen
Jo Martin
Justin Murdock

Members Absent:

Sarah Johnston
Josh Todd

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Michael Holste
Aimee Manis
Erik Ostlund
Leslie Clark
Mark Foote
Jodi Alexander
Beth Gasser

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Justin Murdock, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Murdock asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the September 14, 2016 Parks Board meeting. One correction was noted, Steve Crider made a motion to approve, Matt Erickson seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes with correction.

Introduction of New Board Member

Mr. Murdock asked Trevor Hansen a new Parks and Recreation Board member to introduce himself. Trevor stated that he runs a division of a printing company, has 6 children and has lived in Mesa most of his life and is happy to be on the Board.

Public Comments – None

Appointment of a Fees and Charges Subcommittee -

Marc Heirshberg explained that every year our Fees and Charges are reviewed, staff surveys neighboring communities for comparison and he reminded the Board that the City does “ranges” for most of the fees, and as long as we stay within those ranges we do not need to make any changes. Mr. Heirshberg asked for at least three (3) volunteers to sit on the Fees and Charges Subcommittee; Jamie Glasser, Justin Murdock, Steve Crider and Alicia Kracht volunteered. Once reviewed those changes will be presented at the January Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting and then will move forward to Council.

Report on Commercial Facilities

Erik Ostlund, Commercial Facilities Administrator, introduced himself, and stated that his responsibilities include, Convention Center, Mesa Amphitheater, Dobson Ranch Golf Course and the Cemetery. Mr. Ostlund presented a PowerPoint presentation providing a history of the Rendezvous Center, which is currently the City of Mesa Convention Center, and the Mesa Amphitheater. The City of Mesa Cemetery is celebrating their 125-year anniversary in 2017. Dobson Ranch Golf Course is almost 40 years old and recently have several improvements to

make the Golf Course one of the premier golf courses in the Valley. Mr. Ostlund shared a financial overview of all Commercial Facilities.

Mr. Ostlund asked if there were any questions, Jaime Glasser asked if there were cremation niches at the City Cemetery, there currently is a niche, with an additional niche being created in the new section which should open in 2017. Ms. Glasser asked the average cost of an event at the Mesa Amphitheater, Mr. Heirshberg explained there were several variables which changes the costs, so it was difficult to provide an estimate.

Chair's Comments

Mr. Murdock stated that being the new Board Chair he wanted to know if the Board had any thoughts on how to be more involved in the community.

Ms. Glasser stated that she had been involved in assisting with an event at Pioneer Park and wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation staff for being easy to work with, and she hoped that the Board would remember to try and suggest the use of parks when they are involved with discussions on locations to hold events. Ms. Glasser would also like to see some additional accessibility across busy streets for families to be able to cross the streets to attend parks.

Mr. Murdock shared that he had visited Riverview Park recently and had wondered if there was a way to approach citizens to conduct a survey to provide feedback to Parks and Recreation. Trevor Hansen mentioned that surveys work well as long as there is some type of feedback that is given to the citizens and there is some type of tracking mechanism.

Director's Comments

- Strategic Plan: Over the last few months' management has been reviewing firms to complete the Departments Strategic Plan and the selection committee evaluated seven firms and two have become finalist and a selection should be completed by December. One of the components of the Strategic Plan is outreach and creative ways to engage with our citizens and provide feedback. Mr. Heirshberg appreciated the Boards willingness to assist once a plan is in place.
- City Council Election Results: New Councilmembers will be Mark Freeman, District 1, Jeremy Whittaker, District 2; and, Ryan Winkle, District 3.
- Proposition 1 Results: Proposition 1 was not approved by the voters, which included a Public Plaza at Center Street and Pepper St.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies: Fiesta Sports Park in partnership with Chicago Cubs Charities and Mesa HoHoKam's and Dobson Ranch Playground.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Jo Martin, Alicia Kracht, Matt Erickson, John Duclos attended Celebrate Mesa.
John Duclos and Justin Murdock attended the Mesa Sprint.
Trevor Hansen attended an event at Gene Autry Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director