

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 263 N Center Street – Apache Room, Mesa, on September 14, 2016.

Members Present:

Steven Crider
Matthew Erickson
Sarah Johnston
Alicia Kracht
Jennifer Madsen
Jo Martin
Justin Murdock

Members Absent:

John Duclos
Jaime Glasser
Josh Todd

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Erik Ostlund
Andrea Moore
Leslie Clark
Jo Donovan
Tammy Davenport

Also in Attendance

Eric Toon, DMB

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jennifer Madsen, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Madsen asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the May 11, 2016 Parks Board meeting. Matt Erickson made a motion to approve, Sarah Johnston seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments - None

Introduction of new Parks Advisory Board Members

Steven Crider, is a retired City of Mesa employee and spent time working as a Park Ranger. Jo Martin is Chair at the United Food Bank. Alicia Kracht was previously in the healthcare industry and now is working in the Real Estate market.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Election of Chair and Vice Chair FY 2016-17:

Ms. Madsen opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Matt Erickson nominated Justin Murdock for Chair, Sarah Johnston seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

Sarah Johnston nominated Matt Erickson for Vice Chair, Steve Crider seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

Make recommendation and take action on Naming of Basin 305.

Mr. Heirshberg introduced Andrea Moore, PRCF Administrator. Ms. Moore explained that a request had come in from a neighborhood at Hermosa Vista and 24th Street that frequently use

a retention basin that has been in existence since the 1980's. The neighborhood uses the basin frequently to gather and play games and it is centrally located in that neighborhood. A number of the activities held in basin were organized by the Kashiwagi family. One of the family members Aaron Kashiwagi passed away in 2012 and family members had reached out to the City to rename the basin to Kashiwagi Park. Staff agrees with the recommendation. Mr. Heirshberg explained that most of the City's basins are numbered and in the past when a neighborhood group comes forward recommendations are made. Steven Crider made a motion to rename Basin 305 to Kashiwagi Park, Jo Martin seconded and it was unanimously carried to recommend this move forward.

Eastmark Great Park Update

Andrea Moore, PRCF Administrator, presented to the Parks Advisory Board an update on the next phase of development planned for Eastmark Great Park. Eastmark Great Park is a partnership between DMB Associates and the City of Mesa. Currently there are 12 acres of built park, which includes a lake, playground, splash pad, restrooms, event pavilion, picnic area and walking trails. Eastmark and DMB are now ready to move forward to build the next phase of the master site plan, in partnership with the City of Mesa. This is funded through a Communities Facilities District that exists in the former GM Proving Grounds area, DMB manages the construction of the project and once complete it is then turned over to the City of Mesa to maintain. Construction is scheduled to begin May of 2017, area will be north of the existing facilities, the new construction would include ball fields, another playground and picnic area, a dog park, and a restroom/concession building.

Ms. Moore introduced Eric Toon from DMB Associates. Mr. Toon explained that DMB is required through the development agreement with the City to provide a 90-acre Great Park as part of the Eastmark Community. Once this phase is complete the project will be approximately 1/3 complete. Ms. Moore explained that the City pays for maintenance at the same rate as all Parks equally across the City, if there are any maintenance costs above and beyond then the Community Association pays those overages.

Mr. Heirshberg explained that staff is excited with this new addition to acquire some much needed athletic facilities in southeast Mesa.

Mr. Steve Crider asked about the DMB Partnership with the City. Mr. Toon explained that typically DMB develops the masterplan, builds the development and maintains the open parks and spaces, with Eastmark DMB actually partnered with the City through a maintenance agreement for all of the Eastmark Great Park facilities. Mr. Heirshberg explained that this has been a great partnership with DMB and Eastmark. Mr. Toon also explained that in addition to the expansion of the park DMB has just acquired a valentine diner and will be creating a new restaurant called the Handlebar Diner which will be adjacent to the park area.

Bond Project Update:

- Fiesta Sports Park: Ball Fields at the previous Powell Jr. High School at 8th Street and Extension. This project is wrapping up, currently working with the Chicago Cubs and Councilmember Kavanagh to have a dedication at the end of November. This project is sponsored in part by the Chicago Cubs and Mesa HoHoKams, which will have branding on the ballfields. The football field at this location opened in September.
- Dobson Ranch Playground: The first universally accessible playground in the City, the dedication date has been scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

- Greenfield Park Renovations: Park will be renovated to create a AZ Game and Fish sanctioned Urban Fishing Pond and expand parking and create better trail connections and fitness equipment throughout the trails and new playground shade and Ramada.
- Pioneer Park: Public meeting will be held directly after the Parks Advisory Board meeting. Currently the intent is to activate the northern end of the park, create some structures that stand out and are visible from the south end of the park. Included will be a splash pad with a vertical water wall with lightning, elevated walkway, bridges, play features at varying heights. Anticipated start date February 2017.
- Eagles Park and Community Center: Previous Mesa Jr. High location. This project has received Federal Funding for multiuse fields to also serve storm retention. Old gymnasium will be repurposed for a Community Center and programming space.
- Signal Butte and Elliott: Design has been initiated to coordinate with the Waste Water Plant Construction that is going in on the corner. Total site is 60 acres, working with plant to create trail connections throughout the site.
- Paths and Trails: Managed by Transportation Department. Rio Salado Pathway is under construction now, which will tie into the completed section Tempe currently has which connects to Indian Bend in Scottsdale, should be complete by February. Southeast Mesa Pathway is scheduled to begin in Spring 2017 and follows the east side of the San Tan Loop 202, funding is currently available for the first phase.

Director's Comments

PRCF released an RFP this week requesting consultant services to assist with a Community-wide Needs Assessment and a Strategic Plan update. Current Strategic Plan was written in 2010. Throughout 2017 it is anticipated to hold 20 to 30 different focus groups throughout the community and neighborhood/stakeholder meetings to receive the feedback where to move next.

As members of the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation, Mr. Heirshberg reminded the Board of several events coming up; The Mesa Sprint Triathlon and Celebrate Mesa, and the Foundation has asked for volunteers.

Mr. Heirshberg introduced the staff members that were in attendance at the meeting.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Justin Murdock visited Mesa High and Stapley Aquatics Complexes.

Ms. Jennifer Madsen attended Red Mountain Soccer Complex.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jo Martin, seconded by Matt Erickson and the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director