

## **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 January 18, 2007.

**Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Darla Armfield  
Rhett Evans  
Mike Holste  
Sue Deck  
Mary Lindemuth  
Andrea Moore  
Christine Frederickson  
Sherry Woodley  
Dawn Bies  
Melanie Dykstra

**Members Absent:**

Don Goodrum, excused  
David Martinez, unexcused  
Reggie Dye, excused

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Bud Page, Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Marilyn Wilson made a motion, Connie Gullatt-Whiteman seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 9, 2006 as amended.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **MPYAA Board Recognition**

Melanie Dykstra gave a brief history of the partnership between Mesa Parent Youth Athletic Association (MPYAA) and Mesa Parks & Recreation and thanked the association for their many years of support and cooperation with Mesa Parks & Recreation. Ms. Dykstra added that the MPYAA has been dissolved and a new group has been formed to take its place, the Mesa Youth Sports Coalition (MYSC).

Bud Page presented Jerry Madison and Stephanie Stephan from MPYAA with Certificates of Appreciation.

### **Director's Report**

Bud Page introduced Rhett Evans, Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Director, to the Board. Mr. Evans introduced Dawn Bies as the new Parks Board liaison for the City of Mesa. Mr. Evans gave an update on the changes within the Parks,

Recreation & Commercial Facilities Department (PRCF) since the City's reorganization in November 2006. Mr. Evans reported:

- Organizational Update – an organization chart was provided for the Board. Mr. Evans gave a breakdown of the three sections of the Parks, Recreation & Commercial Facilities Department (Business Operations, Programs Operations and Commercial Operations) and explained the philosophy behind the setup of each section. He shared the department's mission and vision with the Board and introduced department administration staff that were present – Sue Deck, Sherry Woodley, Andrea Moore, Mike Holste, and Dawn Bies.

Russ Gillard asked for a tour or retreat to be scheduled of the Commercial Facilities section of PRCF in order for the board to familiarize themselves with these areas. Mr. Evans agreed to set up meetings for the Board.

Bud Page asked about the possibility of adding more Park Ranger staff in the future. Mr. Evans reported on the City's budget projection remaining flat in the coming biennial budget with no funding for additional staff. He added that with the transfer of Steve Crider, Park Ranger Supervisor to the Police Department, staff was looking at filling that vacancy with a Lead Park Ranger and possibly funding a part-time Park Ranger position with the salary savings.

- Office Location Update – Mr. Evans updated the Board on the staff locations for PRCF staff (Decatur office, Convention Center and South Center Campus) to consolidate some of the operations and reported on planned future office closures (Parks Administration, Park Rangers).

Marilyn Wilson inquired about who would be in the Parks Administration building. Mr. Evans explained that the City hasn't made any definite plans yet, but it was possible the building could be leased, sold or used by another City department.

- Board Meeting Location – Mr. Evans informed the Board that future meetings would be held at the Parks & Recreation office at 125 North Hobson Street in the South Board Room beginning in February 2007.

Bud Page requested notification of the next meeting be sent via email to the Board with a map of the location included.

- Special Events – Mr. Evans gave an update on the Cinco de Mayo event. He reported to the Board that Sister Cities had withdrawn their request, leaving only one vendor requesting to host the event. Mr. Evans informed the Board that Novoa Marketing Solutions had been awarded the 2007 Cinco de Mayo event. Staff is finalizing the guidelines recommended by the Special Events Study Group regarding awarding special events when there is more than one interested party.

Bud Page asked about the outcome of the September 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting when the Council assigned Parks & Recreation to obtain different information. Mr. Evans responded that staff was in the process of trying to put the information together for the

Council when Sister Cities withdrew their request. He further stated that staff would be presenting the criteria information to the Board at a future meeting.

Marilyn Wilson asked Mr. Page if he was going to read the letter from Sister Cities or tell the Board about the reason for Sister Cities withdrawing their request to host the Cinco de Mayo event. Mr. Page stated that Sister Cities felt that the time frame was too short for them to get everything done in time for the event. Mr. Page offered to make a copy of the letter from Sister Cities for the Board. Ms. Wilson declined.

- Waveyard Update – Mr. Evans reported to the Board that City Council has given the City Manager permission to negotiate with developers for the Waveyard Project. He informed the Board that if the area is developed commercially, the ball fields will have to be replaced with a similar or better facility.

Russ Gillard asked whether the ball fields at the Waveyard location would be relocated in West Mesa. Mr. Evans said discussions are ongoing with Council about available land in West Mesa and finalizing details about the project. It will be approximately 18 months before they break ground on the project if it is approved.

### **Chair Comments**

Bud Page announced the date and location of the next APRA Board of Directors meeting at Cabella's on January 19th and passed around a flyer about the meeting.

Bud Page requested the Parks and Recreation Board member information be updated and contact information for PRCF staff be distributed to the Board. Mr. Page passed around a list for the Board to update.

### **Budget Update**

Sue Deck gave an update to the Board on the upcoming biennial budget. She stated that staff was given direction to take their FY 05/06 budget actuals and review and compare for FY 07/08 from those actuals. The PRCD department budget for FY 07/08 is \$31,400,000. The City's Budget and Research Department factored in 3.1% inflation from this fiscal year to the next fiscal year.

For FY 08/09 the PRCF budget will increase to approximately \$34 million, which includes a 2.9% increase for inflation.

The budget breakout for the PRCF department is approximately \$20 million for Parks & Recreation and \$10 for Commercial Facilities.

Items Included in the budget are:

- A 3% COLA increase for employees.
- A vehicle replacement program for replacing the City's aging fleet.
- CIP funding for FY 07/08 remained flat with the exception of Parks & Recreation aquatics pool renovation projects.

Items not included in the budget:

- Grants the department may have secured. Staff has been asked to look at grant funding and asking for additional expenditure via the grant process.
- The City has asked PRCF staff to look at service enhancement, and new revenue streams. PRCF staff will be asking for funding for the sponsorship program.
- Capital replacement program. Staff will be asking for new equipment, some of which will be offset by projected revenue. Staff wants to get a capital equipment replacement process in place also.

Bud Page asked about grant funding in the past and if the Board could participate in that. Ms. Deck used the Adaptive Program as an example. She explained that the Federal government has awarded approximately \$30,000 per year to include the Adaptive Programs in our mainstream programs. Staff will pursue additional state or federal grants. Therefore, staff is requesting through the budget process funding to develop grants. A substantial portion of the Adaptive program is funded through the grant process.

### **Fees and Charges**

Christine Frederickson presented the recommendation from the Fees & Charges subcommittee for the FY 07/08 fees and charges. If approved, these fees will go into effect July 1, 2007. Christine thanked subcommittee members for their participation. The subcommittee consisted of Russ Gillard, Connie Gullatt-Whiteman, LeRoy Brady, and City staff Mike Holste, Rhett Evans, Sherry Woodley, Christine Frederickson and Sue Deck.

The fees and charges review process began in October with the appointment of a subcommittee. Staff was given the task of reviewing the fees and charges for their areas as well as completing fee surveys for other municipalities. Using the market comparisons for other cities as well as the cost recovery directives for their programs, staff made fee recommendations, which were reviewed by management and then presented to the subcommittee. In addition to reviewing the fee recommendations, the subcommittee also explored the option of charging additional fees for non-Mesa residents. Because usage rates of programs by residents are around 90%, staff does not recommend charging higher rates for non-residents at this time. However, after reviewing the usage rates of facility rentals by non-residents, which averages around 30%, the subcommittee is proposing a 20% increase on rental fees for non-residents.

The following are proposed adjustments:

#### Adaptive Leisure

The Adaptive program is substantially supported by partnerships and grants from organizations such as the Department of Economic Security, Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled, and East Valley Special Olympics. An increase to the fees is recommended and should generate an additional \$4,000 in revenue. General adaptive programs are proposing to increase the fee range to include social development activities and co-sponsored trips. Although there is no proposed fee increase for adaptive after school programs, a fee range is recommended. A fee increase of five percent, from \$275 to \$290, is recommended for Summer Camp and a range of \$275-350 is proposed.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Range</u>
General Programs/per person	\$4.00-\$25.00	\$6.00-\$475.00
After School Programs		
Regular Rate	\$24.00	\$24.00-\$48.00
Reduced Lunch Rate	\$12.00	\$12.00-\$24.00
Free Lunch Rate	\$6.00	\$6.00-\$12.00
Summer Camp/person	\$275.00	\$275.00-\$350.00

## **Aquatics**

### Swimming Lessons

A fee increase of \$1.00 per lesson had been recommended for swimming lessons, which will result in an additional \$16,000 in revenue. Lessons are very popular and serve an important role in the community by offering affordable swimming instruction, which not only enhance well-being but also increase life safety and drowning avoidance. Swimming lessons recover 100% of direct and administrative costs.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Lessons per person, two week session	\$20.00	\$21.00

### Aquatics Reservations

The aquatics program has proposed to increase lifeguard fees from \$21/hour to \$22/hour for reservations, which is already in the current range. The new fee is estimated to generate an additional \$4,200 in revenue. Cost recovery for aquatics reservation is 78%. Also a range change is proposed for coalition group use from \$4.00 per practice hour to \$2.00 per practice hour as some smaller groups use less pool space than larger coalition groups. A 20% fee increase for non-residents for pool reservations is also recommended.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Range</u>
Lifeguard per hour per 50 people	\$21.00	\$22.00	
Coalition Group Use/per hour	\$4.00-\$10.00		\$2.00-\$20.00

## **Bandshell and Bleacher Fees**

Currently the bandshell and bleachers are rented for a flat rate of \$300 per day, plus labor fees of \$21 per hour, and mileage charge of \$1.50/mile for delivery and return. It is proposed to eliminate the mileage fee and add an additional \$25 to each bandshell and bleacher rental to cover mileage costs. This creates an all-inclusive fee and is more readily understood than the per-mile charge. In addition, it is recommended that a range be established for labor fees in order to compensate for overtime labor rates which may be applied for weekend or holiday delivery.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Range</u>
Bandshell/Bleacher rental	\$300.00	\$325.00	
Labor, per hour, 2 staff minimum	\$21.00		\$28.00-\$60.00

**Miscellaneous Fees**

A class cancellation fee of \$5-\$10 is proposed to cover the administrative costs associated with a participant canceling an enrollment. A \$5- \$50 late pick up fee is also proposed to cover labor costs associated with staff having to stay with a child who is picked up later after a summer recreation or after school program has ended. These types of late fees are standard in many community programs such as schools and youth organizations as a way of covering any overtime and also as an incentive for parents to be prompt when picking up a child.

	<u>Proposed Range</u>
Class Cancellation Fee	\$5.00-\$10.00
Late Pick-up Fee	\$5.00-\$50.00

**Park Use Options**

For ramada rentals, there are no proposed fee increases; however, an increase in the current range is recommended. Ramada rentals recover approximately 158% of direct costs. The fee for the sand volleyball court was previously charged for a 90-minute rental. It is now proposed to change the fee to an hourly rental to bring the fees in line with all other facility rentals. A change to the range for inflatables and tents that are brought into the park during ramada rentals is also recommended. Due to decreased ranger monitoring, staff requests the inflatable fee be decreased to \$10 per item for customer service purposes and as a result of market comparison. The 20% fee increase for non-residents for ramada and sand volleyball court reservations is also recommended.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Range</u>
Ramada /per hour	\$10.00-\$25.00	\$10.00-\$60.00
Sand Volleyball Court Use/per hour	\$5.00-\$18.00	\$4.00-\$8.00
Inflatables and Tents/ per event	\$20.00-\$50.00	\$10.00-\$50.00

**Recreation Centers/Jefferson and Webster**

Due to increased programming at Jefferson and Webster Recreation Centers, staff recommends the establishment of a fee range for after school and summer recreation programs conducted exclusively at the these recreation centers. It is estimated that an additional \$4,000 in revenue will be generated from these programs. A \$1.00 increase to the Open Gym program for adults is also proposed, thus increasing the total fee to \$3.00 per visit. The 20% fee increase for non-residents for gym and classroom rentals at the recreation centers is also recommended.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Range</u>
Youth Programs/per activity			\$1.00-\$35.00
Adult Open Gym	\$2.00	\$3.00	

**Red Mountain Multigenerational Center**

Fitness Passes and Youth Programs

Daily visits and fitness passes at the Red Mountain Center were increased last year by 11%-50% depending on the type of pass, therefore no fee increases are proposed. However it is recommended to establish fee ranges to allow for adjustments mid year for tax variations or other adjustments. It is also proposed to increase the fee range for Youth and Teen programs, which include pre-school drop-in programs, special events, youth summer drop-in programs, and several other types of programs. The fee increase is estimated to generate an additional \$7,435 if attendance remains steady.

	Current Fee	Proposed Range
Daily Visit Passes		
Youth/Teen (5-15)	\$3.00	\$3.00-\$6.00
Adult (16-54)	\$4.00	\$3.00-\$6.00
Senior (55+)	\$3.00	\$3.00-\$6.00
10 Visit Pass		
Youth/Teen (5-15)	\$22.00	\$22.00-\$35.00
Adult (16-54)	\$30.00	\$22.00-\$35.00
Senior (55+)	\$22.00	\$22.00-\$35.00
20 Visit Pass		
Youth/Teen (5-15)	\$38.00	\$38.00-\$55.00
Adult (16-54)	\$50.00	\$38.00-\$55.00
Senior (55+)	\$38.00	\$38.00-\$55.00
Monthly Pass visit fees		
Youth (5-15)	\$24.00	\$24.00-\$70.00
Adult (16-54)	\$31.00	\$24.00-\$70.00
Senior (55+)	\$24.00	\$24.00-\$70.00
Two adult pass	\$50.00	\$24.00-\$70.00
Family pass	\$60.00	\$24.00-\$70.00
Single parent family pass	\$45.00	\$24.00-\$70.00
Monthly Pass Rate With EFT Promotional Discount (15%)*		
Youth/Teen (5-15)	\$18.00	\$18.00-\$60.00
Adult (16-54)	\$24.00	\$18.00-\$60.00
Senior (55+)	\$18.00	\$18.00-\$60.00
Two adult pass	\$43.00	\$18.00-\$60.00
Family pass	\$54.00	\$18.00-\$60.00
Single parent family pass	\$38.00	\$18.00-\$60.00
Youth and Teen Programs/per activity	\$2.00-\$10.00	\$2.00-\$15.00

\* This discount is applied for those patrons who choose an auto-pay option automatically deducted from their bank, which reduces administrative costs and ensures reliable collections.

Facility Rentals and Birthday Party Packages

The gymnasium and conference room will now be added to the list of available rooms for rental at the Red Mountain Center; therefore, is necessary to establish a fee range for these areas. The proposed fee range for the gymnasium is \$80-\$100 per hour and the proposed fee range for the conference room is \$25-\$50 per hour. By making these areas available for rental, it is estimated that \$3,500 will be generated. Currently the fee structure for facility rentals is a flat four-hour rate for the larger rooms and two-hour rate for the smaller rooms. It is proposed to add in "Additional Hour" rentals for those reservations that exceed the standard time blocks. The 20% fee increase for non-residents for facility rentals at the Red Mountain Center is also recommended. In order to help generate additional revenue and meeting customer demand, staff also propose the establishment and implementation of birthday party packages at the Red Mountain Center with fees ranging from \$135.00-\$160.00 depending on the type of party. It is estimated that the packages will generate \$3,200.00

	<u>Proposed Range</u>
Gymnasium rental/per hour	\$80.00-\$100.00
Conference room rental/per hour	\$25.00-\$50.00
Additional hour after 4-hour rentals	\$50.00-\$150.00
Additional hour after 2-hour rentals	\$10.00-\$40.00
Birthday Party Packages	\$135.00-\$160.00

**Special Interest Classes/Workshops**

The special interest programs encompass a wide range of classes for both youth and adults, including pre-school classes, youth and adult dance, martial arts and several other programs. The special interest classes recover 100% of direct program costs. It is proposed to increase the range to allow for possible expansion of the programs by offering higher end classes. There are no fee increases proposed and no additional revenue projected, but the establishment of a range will allow staff the flexibility to develop new and different programming that might attract more dollars.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Range</u>
Special Interest Classes	\$4.00-\$100.00	\$4.00-\$150.00

**Sports Field Use**

In an effort to simplify the fee structure, it is proposed to combine all field usage fees into one fee range of \$4.00-\$30.00. This range includes field fees for youth and adults for both daytime and primetime (after 6pm) usage. An increase to the range for Facility Deposits of \$150-\$500 is also proposed. This will give staff the flexibility to charge a facility deposit commensurate for larger events. The 20% fee increase for non-residents for all field rentals is also recommended.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Range</u>
Field Use by permit/hour	\$4.00-\$20.00	\$4.00-\$30.00
Facility Deposit	\$150.00	\$150.00-\$500.00

**Community Youth Groups**

Although no fee increases are proposed for the Community Youth Groups, it is recommended to establish a range for field use per child to \$4-\$6 to mirror Mesa Public School fees.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Field use/child/season	\$4.00/child	\$4.00-\$6.00/child

Ms. Frederickson reported that after the report on Fees & Charges was completed, staff decided to institute a 3% fee increase for all adult sports leagues across the board. An addendum to the original report was handed out to the Board.

**Adult Sports Leagues**

Mesa's adult sports program offers a variety of leagues and tournaments to participants on a yearly basis for six major sports venues. Mesa's goal is to remain competitive with other cities in its fees and charges while achieving total cost recovery. In the past two fiscal years, fees were raised substantially for all six sports, which resulted in some drop-off in registration; therefore, minimal adjustments are recommended this year. If participation remains steady, an additional \$34,325 in revenue will be generated. The implementation of a cancellation fee is also proposed for cases when a team cancels after the stated deadline. This fee will cover administrative costs to adjust all affected schedules and other associated costs. An increase in the range for Adult/Youth sports tournaments is also recommended, as the division will be exploring opportunities for hosting adult and youth tournaments.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Baseball – Adult		
2 games/week/per team	\$1,250.00	\$1,310.00
Basketball - Adult		
1 game/week/per team	\$415.00	\$435.00
2 games/week/per team	\$500.00	\$520.00
3 on 3/per team	\$100.00-\$300.00	No change
Flag Football – Adult		
1 game/week/per team	\$420.00	\$450.00
Soccer – Adult		
1 game/week/per team	\$510.00	\$550.00
Softball – Adult		
1 game/week/per team	\$290.00	\$300.00
2 games/week/per team	\$430.00	\$440.00
Volleyball-Adult		
Indoor/1 game/week/team	\$250.00	\$265.00
Beach- Teams of 2's	\$60.00	No Change
Beach-Teams of 4's	\$80.00	No Change
League Cancellation Fee		100% of Registration Fee
Adult/Youth Sports Tournaments	\$100.00-\$500.00	\$100.00-\$750.00

**Summer Recreation Programs**

Summer recreation programs are held at 16 schools within Mesa and are designed for K-9<sup>th</sup> grade youth. The eight-week programs include crafts, games, special guest speakers and theme events, plus swimming and one field trip per summer. Goals are to provide a safe and positive place for children to play and develop social skills. A \$5 increase per program is expected to generate approximately \$14,000 in revenue. A range adjustment is also recommended for Full Day programs as the current fee is already at \$98 per week.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Range</u>
General programs/per session, per person	\$5.00-\$53.00	No Change
Partial day programs/per session/per person	\$44.00-\$100.00	No Change
Full day programs/per week/per person	\$21.00-\$100.00	\$21.00-\$130.00

Financial Impact

The fiscal year 06/07 Parks & Recreation Division operating budget is \$19.7M and revenue is estimated to be \$3.1M. The proposed increased fees and charges are projected to generate an additional \$128,765, which represents an increase of about 4%. The fiscal year 07-08 Parks & Recreation budget is consolidated with the division for a baseline allocation of \$31.4M. Both revenue and expenditure projections are currently underway in the budget process.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the adjusted fees and charges, as outlined by the Fees and Charges Subcommittee.

Mr. Page asked if Ms. Frederickson would be changing and modifying the original Fees & Charges board report to reflect the changes to non-resident fees. Ms. Frederickson said she would be updating the report.

Marilyn Wilson asked how a 20% additional charge for non-residents compared to other municipalities. Ms. Frederickson reported that staff had looked at other fee surveys that were done and most other municipalities charged non-resident rates for both programs and facilities. Comparing the rates, most municipalities were about 20-30% higher. Staff would like to start off with a 20% increase. Ms. Wilson responded that she thought that that might have been lower than the other municipalities.

Russ Gillard added that he recalled that the Arts Center tried to charge substantial fee increases at the MAC for non-residents, which resulted in significant participation drop-off. He added that once they cut the fee back to something more reasonable they were able to collect the additional revenue.

Connie Gullatt-Whiteman reported that that the subcommittee wanted to test this non-resident facility fee. We were looking at a very small amount of participation in programs, around 6% for non-residents, versus the rental portion, which was a much higher percentage, around 30% of non-residents.

Ms. Wilson said that she had been thinking more of the facility usage than program participation.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked about the fundraising position that had recently been established in PRCF.

Sherry Woodley reported to the board that Melanie Dykstra had recently accepted the position of Recreation Coordinator/Sponsorships. One of the items being focused on is establishing a scholarship type fund, with Melanie selling sponsorships to people who would give money to deposit into that fund. Staff is hoping to establish that fund with monies from an outside agency for people needing fee assistance. Staff is meeting next week to set their goals and will be providing monthly reports on the progress of the sponsorship position.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman said she was very excited to hear about the creation of the sponsorship position and thought it would be a great position for everyone involved.

Mr. Page agreed it would be very helpful.

Ms. Woodley thanked Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman for asking about the sponsorship position.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman also mentioned how the philosophy about fees and charges had changed, and was now focused on core services and cost recovery. She proposed having a retreat at a later time to further discuss fees and charges and establish the percentages of cost recovery the Board wanted to have for different programs.

Mr. Page agreed with her suggestion and asked Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman when she would like to have the entire Board's input on the fees and charges.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman replied that she thought they needed the entire Board's input. She suggested having a board meeting with a retreat afterwards. She said staff should determine when to have this retreat, perhaps in the next couple of months.

Mr. Page suggested meeting prior to reviewing the fees again.

Ms. Woodley agreed that the Board's input is needed.

Russ Gillard mentioned that he would be leaving early and made a motion to vote on the fees and charges while there was a quorum. Mr. Brady seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the fees and charges and send them on to City Council with the Board's approval.

Mr. Page thanked Ms. Frederickson and Ms. Woodley.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman requested an update on the fundraiser for the Foundation from Mr. Gillard before he left the meeting.

Mr. Gillard replied that the fundraiser event at My Big Fat Greek Restaurant was very successful. He stated that he couldn't remember the exact amount they had raised, but he thought it was around \$1,700.

Mr. Page asked if there was going to be another fundraiser coming up, to which Mr. Gillard responded that there was going to be one on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Buffalo Wild Wings on McKellips and Greenfield.

Mr. Page said it was a fun event and he appreciated everyone showing up.

### **Pool Renovation and Construction Update**

Darla Armfield gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding future pool construction at Smith Junior High and pool renovations at Taylor and Poston Jr. High Schools.

Ms. Armfield provided some history regarding the new pool site and pool renovations. She reported that Council had previously given approval to use funding that had been earmarked for the Indoor Aquatic Center, approximately \$25 million, and reallocate it into the Aquatics program through five renovations and one new pool development. The first phase of that renovation is currently underway at Carson Jr. High School. It is on schedule and almost complete. The new development was to be at Smith Jr. High. Council requested that staff relook at potential land sites to decide which site was the best to build the next pool. Council felt that an enhanced competition facility could be built instead. Potential land sites identified were Smith Jr. High, Skyline Park, and Desert Ridge Jr. High.

Smith Jr. High is a 1.4-acre site. There are portables on the site that the schools have offered to move at their cost. If the portables are moved, it will become a 2-acre site, with room to build an enhanced facility there. The pool would be located at the back of that site, similar to Stapley Jr. High. Currently, Smith is the only MPS junior high without a pool.

Ms. Armfield went on to report that Mesa Public Schools (MPS) has offered to contribute \$500,000 towards the development of the Smith Jr. High pool, which they also did for the construction/rebuild of Carson Jr. High pool. This would include classroom development and the boiler to heat the facility. They have also offered to fund an exterior bathroom and would provide the land. They would pay for utilities and year round maintenance of the boiler. The City would build the facility and maintain the pool. MPS would also let the City expand to the north, allowing for spectator seating.

Skyline Park is the second site identified, located adjacent to Skyline High School. Originally the Parks Master Plan included a pool in the design of Skyline Park. If chosen, some amenities would need to be relocated. MPS has indicated they would not be interested in using that facility. The advantage of building on this site would be having daytime use options not currently available at existing facilities during the school year.

The third site is Desert Ridge Jr. High. Desert Ridge is a Gilbert Public school located in the Mesa city limits, which predominantly serves Mesa residents. This site is very large and would house a very nice competition facility.

A footprint of Brimhall Jr. High pool, which is similar to the proposed footprint, was used to show how it would fit inside each of the three sites identified.

If the pool is built at Smith Jr. High, the funding from MPS would also include \$500,000 and extra land for renovations to the Kino Jr. High pool. Since the Indoor Aquatic center is no longer being considered, enhancements to the existing facility are needed in order to accommodate the high levels of competition that Mesa has hosted in previous years.

Due to inflation, it is unlikely the City could enhance these facilities without the contribution from MPS.

Ms. Armfield stated that the residents in the Smith Jr. High area had previously submitted petitions with over 300 signatures requesting a pool be built at Smith due to its lack of parity with other junior high schools.

Ms. Armfield provided a drawing of the service circles, showing that Smith Jr. High and Desert Ridge Jr. High circles touch each other and cover the Skyline Park circle. Staff recommends building at Smith Jr. High and would like to develop a facility for a higher level of competition at Desert Ridge Jr. High, such as a 50-meter facility similar to the one at Kino Jr. High, sometime in the future. This would meet all of the service requirements for Mesa for competition in aquatics.

Mr. Gillard asked how much of the Smith service circle was in District 5.

Andrea Moore said the pool location is in District 5 as the school site has been annexed into the City. The surrounding area is still a county island.

Ms. Armfield stated that the reasons for building at Smith were very compelling, including the service circles, staying in line with the Master Plan recommendations, and meeting the needs of the Mesa residents. Staff believes Council's concerns can be met by expanding Kino to a stretch 50-meter pool and using the extra land at Kino Jr. High.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked if staff had talked to any of the Council members that had those concerns to see if they would be happy with that recommendation.

Ms. Armfield stated that she thought that was the whole purpose of this report to go back to Council to vote on the next pool site.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman then stated that this was an action item that the Board would need to take action on at this time.

Ms. Armfield said if the Board concurs they would then go back to Council with their recommendation about the proposed enhancements at Kino, which covered the enhancements Council had been speaking to previously.

Ms. Wilson concurred with the presentation and made a motion to accept the recommendation to make Smith Jr. High the next pool site.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman seconded.

Ms. Wilson suggested that at a later time staff could possibly establish a cooperative agreement with Gilbert to fund a portion of the Desert Ridge Jr. pool.

The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Reports on Meetings/Events Attended by Board Members**

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman attended the Transportation Council meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the south canal and multi-use path. It was very interesting and another meeting would be coming up as a follow up.

Mr. Brady mentioned that he was featured in Phoenix Home & Garden magazine in December. He also mentioned that American Rose magazine published an article that he co-authored about the Mesa Community College Rose Garden in their December edition.

Mr. Page thanked Mr. Brady and Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman for their updates.

Mr. Page informed the Board that the next meeting would be on February 8, 2007 at the Hobson Parks & Recreation office. He asked that any items needing action be identified as such on the agenda.

Mr. Page made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was so moved. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Rhett Evans  
Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Director