

## **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 September 12, 2012.

### Members Present:

Kent Bulkley- Chair  
John Duclos  
Milt Fort  
Jennifer Madsen  
David Martinez  
Kathleen Rahn  
Niki Tapia

### Members Absent:

Bert Millett  
Ron Wills  
Mark Yarbrough

### Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg  
Michael Holste  
Darla Armfield  
Leslie Clark  
Jo Donovan  
Stacy Cheaney-Thompson  
Roy Nunnally  
John Goodie  
Robert Skutnik  
Arnulfo Magdaleno

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Kent Bulkley, Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bulkley asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the July 11, 2012 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, Milt Fort made a motion, Niki Tapia, seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes. Mr. Bulkley asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2012 Subcommittee meeting, Kathleen Rahn made a motion, John Duclos, seconded, and it was carried to approve the minutes.

**Public Comments** – Matt Shaffer – Mr. Shaffer stated that it was an honor serving as the Chair of the Parks Board, and he wanted to remind everyone that early voting starts soon and that he was a huge proponent of the Parks Bond Election and he hoped that all members of the Advisory Board would spread the word.

**Presentation of outgoing Board Member:** Marc Heirshberg on behalf of the staff wanted to thank Matt Shaffer for his time and commitment to the Parks Advisory Board and presented him with a plaque.

**Aquatics Facility Use Policy and Procedure** – Review and Take Action: Mr. Heirshberg explained that this policy follows the same policy and procedure as the field use policy; however some verbiage was changed to meet Aquatics. Several aquatics groups were currently operating under previous agreements from 1978 and some of those groups were not in existence any longer, so therefore a new Policy and Procedure was created. The policies were taken to existing Aquatics user groups and no comments were received in opposition. David Martinez asked for clarification on which policies this agreement was patterned after, Mr. Heirshberg explained that it was patterned after the Field Use Policy and Procedures and that policy did not have any negative responses, so it was felt that the public would also feel comfortable with the Aquatics Facility Use Policy and Procedure. This new policy also establishes the guidelines for any new aquatic groups that are coming into the program on how the use policy works for their group as far as prioritization. Kathleen Rahn asked what an example of a partner group, Mr. Heirshberg answered that for this agreement it was Mesa Aquatics Club, Mesa Swim Club, Desert Dolphins and Arizona Aqua Stars. Mr. Bulkley asked if

there were any audits that were being completed with regard to aquatic use. Mr. Heirshberg answered that due to our fees and charges policy with our resident and non-resident groups that the audits are completed via with name, city and zip codes. Mr. Bulkley also asked about the open enrollment policy and that there is a reference to a certain skill level and if that was discriminating. Mr. Heirshberg clarified that the first one is saying that you have an open enrollment for all ages, and the second one is just clarify what is your target market or age group is.

Ms. Rahn made a motion, David Martinez, seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the Aquatics Facility Use Policy and Procedure.

**Presentation on PRCF Park Rangers:** Darla Armfield, Recreation Coordinator for Aquatics and the Ranger program, Ms. Armfield introduced the Rangers; Roy Nunnally, Arnulfo Magdaleno, Robert Skutnik, and John Goodie. Ms. Armfield then provided the history of the Ranger program, which started in 1987, at that time there were 30 park rangers, and currently there are 4 full-time park rangers. Mr. Skutnik gave the Park Ranger mission statement and stated that the rangers establish relationships with those they interact with. Mr. Skutnik shared the park rules with the Board, and explained that the Rangers have problems enforcing such rules as; urban camping, possessing spirituous liquor, and glass containers. The Rangers' duties include closing all park restrooms, inspect park equipment on a monthly basis, close the cemetery daily, and conducting citizen ride-alongs. John Goodie shared the statistics of the Mesa Hydration program which includes providing water to several citizens in the park, and provide relief for those that are homeless; they usually distribute over 3,200 bottles of water during the summer. Arnulfo Magdaleno explained that the rangers deal with a number of intoxicated individuals in the parks, which they have several that are regulars and they get to know them and deal with them daily. The ranger program also deals with all of the sports facilities, turning on and off the lights. Roy Nunnally explained that some of the challenges that they deal with are dogs off leashes, unsafe areas in the parks, illegal vending in the park, illegal drugs, vandalism, graffiti, and the biggest issue in the parks is the consumption of alcohol. Mr. Skutnik mentioned that they also have success' one of the biggest is the hydration campaign. Ms. Rahn stated that she was amazed that with only 4 rangers and so much area to cover, is it safe? Mr. Nunnally explained that they work with the Mesa Police Department and the Mesa Fire Department as back-up. Mr. Skutnik explained that they even give their phone numbers out to patrons so that they can call them if they see a situation that might need addressed. Mr. Martinez asked if a citizen going into a park sees an unsafe condition is there a phone number they can call to notify the rangers. Mr. Heirshberg explained that at all of the parks there are signs that have the Parks phone number and it notifies the Rangers, and also that 911 is available. Ms. Tapia asked if the Rangers work with the homeless shelters for some of the patrons of the parks, Mr. Skutnik explained that they have several contacts that they can call that will come out to the different parks to assist.

**Chair's Comments:** Mr. Bulkley wanted to recognize Ms. Rahn for her efforts in regards to the Bond Petition that she spearheaded. Ms. Rahn explained that three Parks Board members did sign the petition. Mr. Heirshberg explained that 9 comments were pro and none were received in opposition.

#### **Director's Comments**

- Riverview Park Spring Training Project: Mr. Heirshberg stated that if you have driven by Riverview Park lately you have noticed quite a change, they are moving quickly and the structural package is out for bid. Currently still working on a camera link to allow the public to watch the construction of the project.

- Parks Bond: The election is November 6<sup>th</sup> and there is a link on the City of Mesa webpage and on the top of the Parks and Recreation home page.
- Arizona Park and Recreation Association Awards: The Mesa Parks Department was recognized as winning two awards, Michael Holste explained that the awards were to Skyline Pool as the outstanding facility in the state, and the other program was the Summer Fit Kids Kamp which is in cooperation with Cardon Children's Hospital and involves both parents and children. Mr. Holste has also been named as the President of the Arizona Park and Recreation Association.
- Spring Training Wrap-Up: A handout was given to the Board, it is a breakdown of the Spring Training Operation.
- Celebrate Mesa – Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at Red Mountain Soccer Complex, anticipation is that it will be a great success, as was the one in June.
- Mesa Parks and Recreation Foundation is having their Triathlon on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Skyline Pool and is looking for volunteers.

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

Mr. Martinez attended several of the City of Mesa pools.

Ms. Madsen attended one evening of the Jr. Disabled Games and felt it was very inspiring to watch the athletes compete.

Ms. Rahn has been representing the Advisory Board on the General Plan committee every month and explained that there is a place online where you can get more information and has enjoyed the opportunity.

Mr. Fort attended the Mesa Grande Groundbreaking and the Jr. Disabled Games.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE  
PRCF Department Director