

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 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on September 14, 2011.

Members Present:

Kent Bulkley
John Duclos
Milt Fort
David Martinez
Bert Millett
Kathleen Rahn
Matt Shaffer
Cody Spohn
Niki Tapia
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

J.D. Dockstader
Andrea Moore
Stacy Cheaney-Thompson
Marc Heirshberg
Leslie Clark
Mike Holste
Dawn Bies

Members Absent:

Ron Wills, Excused

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Mark Yarbrough, Chair.

Introduction of new Board members and staff

Mr. Yarbrough introduced three new Board members and asked each to give the Board a brief biography of their background.

John Duclos explained that he was from Boston, Massachusetts and has been in school-based athletics for 36 years. He also enjoys participating in community-based athletics and hiking.

Niki Tapia said she was an Arizona native, works for the City of Chandler, and enjoys being active within her community.

Cody Spohn said he was a Special Education teacher in the Bazler School District, is a Mesa native, and has participated in Parks and Recreation activities often.

Marc Heirshberg introduced staff members Andrea Moore and Leslie Clark to the Board.

Presentation to outgoing Board members

Mr. Yarbrough introduced former Board member Marilyn Wilson. Mr. Heirshberg thanked Ms. Wilson on behalf of PRCF staff for her many years of service to the citizens of Mesa and support shown to staff.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Yarbrough asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the May 11, 2011, Parks Board meeting. Kent Bulkley made a motion, Milt Fort seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

FY 2011-12 Chair/vice Chair elections

Mr. Yarbrough opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Bulkley nominated Matt Shaffer for Chair of the Parks Board. David Martinez nominated Mr. Bulkley for Vice Chair; both nominations were unanimously approved.

Public Comments

None.

Hear report on Playful City USA designation

Andrea Moore told the Board that Mesa has been designated a Playful City by KaBoom! This is the third year in a row Mesa has been selected to be a part of this leading category of recreation providers. Playful City locations have grown to 151 cities across the nation. The department's priorities for 2011 & 2012 are to continue to work on playground infrastructure replacements and improvements. She added that recent projects included a playground build at Golden Hills Park, and a playground build at the park adjacent to Fire Station 218.

Ms. Moore told the Board Mesa now has 208 play spaces, which include playgrounds, pools, recreation centers, golf courses, and basins. PRCF staff designated October 22, 2011, a *Day of Play*, and invite the public to come out and participate in this event at Red Mountain Park from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The Mayor will proclaim October 22, 2011 an official Day of Play at the October 17, 2011 Council meeting.

David Martinez asked which parks would be targeted for this year. Ms. Moore explained that no parks have specific projects planned at this time, but that Holmes Park is currently the only City of Mesa park without a playground structure. She also said that renovation designs were in process for Los Alamos Park and a playground replacement was scheduled for Princess Park. Mr. Martinez inquired about the method for prioritization of projects. Mr. Heirshberg explained that with limited funding the department has a goal to try to do two replacement projects each year.

Mr. Bulkley inquired about the status of the train at Pioneer Park. Ms. Moore explained that the train project would not qualify as a playground project under the Playful City/ KaBoom! guidelines, but the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation (Foundation), is still raising funds to move the train engine to the front of the Park near Main Street with the possibility of additional monuments added to the location.

Hear information and take action on Fire Station 218 park naming

Ms. Moore told the Board that volunteers from HandsOn Greater Phoenix, along with volunteers from the surrounding neighborhood joined forces to build a playground at the park adjacent to Fire Station 218. This playground is designed to focus more on physical activity for kids with amenities such as the X-Wave 2 and Monarch Climbers.

Mr. Shaffer asked for a motion regarding naming of the park. Mr. Martinez made a motion to recommend **Freedom Park**, as the name of the park, in accordance with the suggestions received from volunteers and neighborhood residents. Mr. Duclos seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Heirshberg added that the Board's recommendation would be presented to the Community and Cultural Development Council Committee on September 15, 2011.

Discuss Parks Board bi-monthly meeting time

The Mayor's Office communicated to City management that there has been difficulty filling positions on some City Boards due to meeting times. He asked staff to consult with their Boards regarding changing meeting times to be more convenient for citizens to participate.

After discussion by the Board, it was agreed to change the bi-monthly Park Board meeting time to 5:00 p.m.

Hear presentation on Riverview Park and Cubs update

Mr. Heirshberg shared the presentation he gave to City Council regarding the Cubs Stadium and Riverview Park design concepts. He explained that the *City* fields will be joint-use amenities in the park and would be available for public use after the Cubs season ends.

Mr. Yarbrough suggested that additional budget for staff should be allocated as part of the Riverview project.

Mr. Heirshberg communicated that parking is a big part of the development agreement for the property, and that the design of the facility would include retaining some of the current amenities that are important to users, and also adding some new features to the park. Some of the possible new features might include the addition of iconic features that could be seen from a distance to draw users into the facility.

Mr. Shaffer expressed that parking will be a huge impact on the site, and asked if the surrounding neighborhood has been engaged in the process. Mr. Heirshberg replied that yes, they have been and will continue to be involved.

Kathleen Rahn inquired about the involvement of ASU at the Riverview site. Mr. Heirshberg indicated that ASU is currently in negotiations with the Cubs on potential use of facilities.

Mr. Bulkley asked about the time frame for the closure of the golf course. Mr. Heirshberg said that the course is currently planning to be open for this winter, and based on the current schedule we anticipate being open through April of 2012.

Mr. Duclos asked about traffic concerns for the site. Mr. Heirshberg indicated that engineers are working on the traffic patterns using the City's design standards.

Mr. Martinez questioned the reality of the Cubs Stadium and Riverview project sighting the recent history of other projects that did not come to fruition. Mr. Heirshberg explained that the project for the Stadium and baseball facilities will cost \$84 million and an additional \$15 million for infrastructure. If all of the park amenities do not fall within the \$15 million, the remainder may have to be tied to an additional bond package in the future.

Mr. Bulkley asked about the Waveyard project, and if it will be part of the Riverview Park development. Mr. Heirshberg said that at this time they do not have a proposal on the table, but that they could bring a new proposal in the future.

Director's Comments

- iMesa – Mr. Heirshberg encouraged Board members to go to the iMesa website and review the submissions. He indicated that there are a lot of Parks and Recreation items being voted on in the Village meetings that start in October. Dawn Bies would be sending out meeting notices as well as the last presentation that Mr. Heirshberg gave to the iMesa Board.
- 75th Anniversary Day of Play – the Director invited Board members to attend this special event at Red Mountain Park on October 22, 2011, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. to help celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the department and Mesa's Playful City designation.
- Fiscal Year Budget 2011/2012 – last year's budget is in the old financial system, the new budget will be in the City's new system in November. He explained the two million dollar increase in the Park Maintenance budget as a result of environmental impact fees being allocated to PRCF.
- Fees and Charges Sub-Committee – Board members were asked to consider being part of this sub-committee to review and approve all fees and charges for the department. Staff will begin submitting feedback and recommendation on fees and charges as early as next week. The first meeting of the sub-committee will be in December.
- City Code Revisions – the City Code revisions are now in effect and have been recorded by the City Clerk.
- NRPA Magazine featured the Golden Hills Playground Project in their July issue.
- Healthy Kids Expo at Superstition Springs Mall on Saturday, October 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Calendar of Events (update from the Board on past/present events) –

Mr. Bulkeley recently visited golf courses in Grand Junction, Colorado and in Missoula, Montana. He was reminded of what great golf courses we have in Mesa, and that Dobson Ranch is an outstanding municipal course. He also visited parks in Oregon and Breckenridge, Colorado. He inquired about how to integrate downtown amenities into parks.

Mr. Shaffer attended the Golden Hills playground build in May, and the 75th Anniversary event in June. He also attended the September 11th playground build at Freedom Park, visited pools and enjoyed the FlowRider this summer.

Mr. Fort attended the opening celebration at the Mesa Arts Center, attended Economic Development Board meetings, Phoenix/Mesa Gateway Board meetings, reported that Allegiant Air has some exciting new service expansions that will be announced at the September, 26th meeting, as well as information on the airport expansion project.

Mr. Millett attended the 75th Anniversary event at Pioneer Park in June, the Mesa Arts Center opening, summer swim meets, and Foundation meetings. Mr. Millett encouraged Board members to get involved in the Sprint Triathlon being sponsored by the Foundation.

Mr. Martinez visited Mesa parks and utilized many of the PRCF facilities over the summer.

Mr. Duclos took a trip to Tanzania where he helped build a playground and water treatment system.

Ms. Tapia – No updates as she is new to the Board.

Mr. Spohn – frequented City Parks and Basins in southeast Mesa.

Mr. Shaffer frequented many of the parks and basins in southeast Mesa. He expressed his appreciation for the great parks in Mesa and keeping these accessible to the community.

Ms. Rahn visited the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center and joined as a member. She expressed how impressed she was with the diversity of offerings available to the community at this center

Mr. Yarbrough attended the Little League State Tournament events. He received compliments from participants on the quality of the facility.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRP
PRCF Department Director