

## **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session via Virtual Zoom call on June 2, 2020.

### **Members Present:**

Claud Cluff  
Matthew Erickson  
Kimberly Forest  
Jaime Glasser  
Cindy Hayton  
Nycole Leyba  
Brent Maldonado  
Jo Martin  
Orchidia Peterson

### **Staff Present:**

Marc Heirshberg  
Aimee Manis  
Jo Donovan

### **Members Absent:**

Rob Giles  
Jacob Martinez

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Jo Martin, Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Martin, Chair, asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2020 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Nycole Leyba made a motion, Kimberly Forest seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cluff – Erickson - Forest – Glasser - Hayton – Leyba – Maldonado – Martin – Peterson  
NAYS – None

### **Public Comments: None**

NAYS – None

### **Presentation on the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department**

Marc Heirshberg, Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the effects of COVID-19 on the Department.

At the end of the presentation, the floor was opened for questions. Nycole Leyba, asked “how is the Department and the City promoting the Food Drives?” Mr. Heirshberg explained that the Department is not the marketing arm of the Food Drive, the City PIO office handles that but that Councilmembers were promoting them on their social media platforms and the City and Department are also promoting them on their social media platforms. Ms. Leyba also asked if there were any major projects that were put on hold due to the Pandemic, Mr. Heirshberg explained that at this time all future projects have been delayed. Ms. Leyba then asked with staff working the Mesa Cares program will there be staff prepared to handle any monsoon

storms, Mr. Heirshberg explained that certain areas of our Department have continued to operate those areas are Cemetery, Parks Maintenance and Facilities Maintenance. The typical hot spots for storm damage is the Cemetery and the Golf Course, and staff have been removing trees that are planted too close or are unhealthy to create more space so the microburst have a place to move forward and will not be trapped.

Ms. Hayton, Ms. Glasser and Ms. Martin all expressed their appreciation to the Department for their assistance with the Mesa Cares Program.

### **Director's Comments**

Mr. Heirshberg provided a Project Update:

- North Center Street: Archeological remains have been found on the site and required studies are currently being completed to determine the next steps in construction.
- Red Mountain Park Expansion: An architect design firm has been chosen and they are beginning to analyze the water sources required for the project.

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

Ms. Martin asked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board if any of them had visited any of the City Parks during this time and what they had observed:

Ms. Leyba stated that her and her family had visited the retention area next to Red Mountain Soccer Complex.

Ms. Peterson and her family rode their bikes around Eastmark Great Park and felt sadness with the parks being taped off but appreciated that the Department is following the CDC guidelines in keeping families safe.

Ms. Hayton stated that she drives past the dog park at Countryside Park, she noticed that it was very busy with people taking their dogs to the park. Harmony Park has been used to have picnics under some of the perimeter trees.

Ms. Glasser stated that she had been riding her bike around Pioneer Park and Riverview and had seen some activity and that she noticed that people were keeping their social distancing.

Mr. Erickson stated that he and his son spent a lot of time at Desert Trails Park, and really enjoyed spending time there. He stated that Desert Trails Park is being used often.

Ms. Martin stated that her and her family have been walking around Red Mountain Park and enjoyed seeing families enjoying the green spaces and the fishing areas and she felt it was nice to see people out and being respectful of the social distancing.

Ms. Martin asked if there were any other items for discussion; the Board had no additional comments or discussion. Mr. Erickson made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Glasser, and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Cluff – Erickson - Forest – Glasser - Hayton – Leyba – Maldonado – Martin – Peterson  
NAYS – None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE  
PRCF Department Director