Tempe

Minutes
Rio Salado Advisory Commission
February 24, 2009

Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on February 24, 7:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library Conference Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:
Alana Chavez
Sharon Doyle
Mary Hannaman
Sue Lofgren
Brett Siegal

Members Absent:
Dana Burkhardt
Christina Cenzano
Michael Curlee
Eric Emmert
Julie Ramsey

City Staff Present:
Basil Boyd
Diane Johnson
Nancy Ryan

Guests Present:
Julian Avila – ADOT
Annette Riley – ADOT
Julie Rees - Triadvocates

Nancy Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2009
A quorum was not met therefore the January RSAC minutes were not approved.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances
There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Lake Treatment & River Flows
Basil Boyd, COT Hydrologist gave a brief summary of lake treatments and river flows.

1) Basil explained Town Lake has to meet certain water quality standards for swimming events. He stated in the past when the pH is high the City could adjust the pH with an algaecide treatment. But on January 7, 2009 the federal appeals court vacated an EPA practice that allowed pesticides to be applied to U.S. waters without a Clean Water Act permit if applied according to label directions. Starting April 16, 2009 a permit will be needed to use algaecides and pesticides in the nation's waters. Arizona DEQ will have to create a permit as well as modify the Arizona Administrative Code. Basil said if we are not able to do algaecide treatments then some of the swimming events at the lake would not happen when the pH exceeds 9.0.
2) Basil reported water flow in the Salt River has fluctuated recently because of SRP releases from Lake Roosevelt. He stated the flows have dropped off this week but could increase in March because of warm weather and snow melt.

Agenda Item 4 – ADOT Loop 202 Construction

Julian Avila, ADOT Communication Relations Project Manager, gave a summary of the Loop 202 (Red Mountain Freeway) widening project which will be adding lanes to the freeway. The boundaries for the project are the Loop 202 between the SR 51 (Piestewa Freeway) and the Loop 101 (Price Freeway). On the eastbound side ADOT will add one general purpose lane from the SR 51 to Rural Road then two lanes from Rural Road to the Loop 101. On the westbound side ADOT will add two general purpose lanes from Loop 101 to McClintock then one lane from McClintock to Rural Road. For more information you can go to www.valleyfreeways.com .

General discussion regarding the **ADOT Loop 202 Construction**, including:

- Nancy asked what the build time would be for the segment from Mill Ave. to Rural Road. Annette Riley from ADOT reported that area is scheduled for May through November.
- One commissioner asked what impact construction will have on the wetlands at the 101 & 202 intersection. Annette stated it will have little impact on the wetlands because a designated disturbance area has been outlined by ADEQ and USACOE.

Agenda Item 5 – Rio Salado/Community Development Re-Org

Nancy presented a brief summary of the proposed COT reorganization. She asked the commissioners to look at a handout from the City Manager on the personnel cost savings by department. She reported the Community Development Department is subject to 18% reduction in staff and Rio Salado is proposed to be divided into two components (development and operations) with operations function moving to Parks and Recreation Department. She also reported a reduction in events financially supported by the City is being considered as a means to reduce costs within the Parks & Recreation Department. Some of the events listed for reduction are key community based events at Town Lake. Nancy reported that City Council suggested looking for more revenue to entice more eligible-employee retirement and as a means to reduce the number of employee layoffs. Furloughs and modified work weeks were also evaluated by the City Council. More meetings are scheduled to review the impacts to each City department.

Agenda Item 6 - Committee Updates

- Friends of Rio Salado – No report
- Ad Hoc Committee Tempe Papago Park Master Plan – Sharon Doyle reported Mayor Hallman attended the Feb. 12 meeting to share his vision of the Papago Park Master Plan and explained why Rio Salado is included in that plan. For more information you can go to www.discoverpapagopark.com. Sharon reported in two weeks the committee will be taking a field trip of the area.
- Parks Board Commission – Nancy Ryan reported at the February 18th meeting the Mayor talked about the Rio Salado Advisory Commission and the Golf Committee merging with the Parks Board.

Agenda Item 7 – Project Updates

Nancy gave a summary of projects in Rio Salado.

- Now open is the aloft Hotel located on Playa Del Norte Drive east of Rural Road.

- South Bank infrastructure has been competed and the Rio East Linear Park construction will start soon.
- Tempe and Mesa were awarded a $142,000 design grant for new path on the south bank of the Salt River from Tempe Marketplace to the Riverview Park in Mesa.
- The Tempe Beach Park restrooms are under construction.
- South Bank multi-use path from TCA to Priest is now open. There will be a Creative Path Art Walk on Tuesday, March 31st from 5 to 8 PM.
- There is a new RFP out for a 50+ acres Amateur Sports Facility located west of Priest and north of Rio Salado Parkway.

The Committee's next meeting will be **March 24**.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Project Manager