



Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held

Minutes Parks and Recreation Board October 17, 2007

on October 17, 2007 7:00 p.m., Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Frank Granillo, Chair
Angela Thornton, Vice-Chair
Buddy Davis
Andrea Esquer
Scott Hamilton
Ed Parker

Members Absent:

Ed Roberts (excused)

City Staff Present:

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant – Parks & Recreation
Mike Armfield, Recreation Supervisor – Parks & Recreation
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development
Hansen, Planner – Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:06 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Rio Salado Update

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided updates on developments in the Rio Salado area.

1. Staff will not proceed with the RFP for the amateur sports facility for the BLM site.
2. An environmental study of the site has been initiated.
3. The City is moving forward to attract arts-related development around the Tempe Center for the Arts.
4. Staff continues to work on the development agreement for the construction of the boathouse.
5. The first meeting with Avenue Communities to discuss the “Between the Bridges” project was held.

6. Planning continues for the south bank linear park from the Tempe Center for the Arts.
7. The Army Corp of Engineers have submitted 100% design plans for a multi-use path on the north side of the lake just west of McClintock.
8. Updated renderings of the pedestrian bridge were shared with the board.
9. The ADOT 202 Freeway widening project may affect areas north of the lake.
10. A topographical map of the lake bottom was created and shared with the board.
11. The map shows the depths, shallows and areas where sediment has collected.

Agenda Item 3 – Tempe Historic Preservation Commission

Bob Gasser, Tempe Historic Preservation Commission Chair, was joined by member, Dan Killoren, to make a presentation on the commission’s request to designate Hayden Butte Preserve as a historic property.

1. There are over 500 petroglyphs on the butte.
2. The butte is considered sacred by the Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC).
3. The butte has historical significance in relation to the founders of Tempe, Hayden Ferry, La Casa Vieja, St. Mary’s Church and San Pablo.
4. The butte provides a unique visual impact on downtown Tempe.
5. There have been problems with vandalism.
6. The historic designation would provide another layer of protection for the butte.
7. The Historic Preservation Commission would also like to submit a request for Indian gaming funds to repair damage in the park, provide additional signage and increased park patrols.
8. There are plans to eventually remove all of the antennas that are currently located on the butte.
9. The SRP-MIC community would like to see all structures removed from the butte.
10. The commission would like the opportunity to review any changes that might be proposed for the city-owned property on the butte.
11. The historic designation would promote conversation regarding the conservation of the butte.
12. The commission plans to meet with ASU regarding their property on the butte.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The board wants to be sure that the current users of the butte are not negatively impacted.
- There are many people that enjoy the holiday displays that are placed on the butte.
- The board would like the commission to return with a staff report on what the actual impacts of the designation would be.
- The board feels that the concept is acceptable, but they want to be sure that there are no unintended consequences as a result of the historic designation.

Agenda Item 4 – Youth and Adult Sports Update

Mike Armfield, Recreation Supervisor, presented information on the programs that are offered by the sports division.

1. Sports programs are offered year-round, with the exception of a few weeks in August.
2. Adult softball is the division’s most popular with almost 700 teams participating each year.
3. Basketball is the most popular sport among the youth programs.

4. The youth program also offers flag football, girls softball and golf.
5. The sports division also provides girls volleyball, boys flag football, girls & boys basketball and girls softball as a part of its ACAC after school program.
6. The ACAC is offered to provide free sports programs for students who do not participate in their school's intramural programs because they have been cut from the team or because they want to play in a less competitive environment.
7. The ACAC is a true partnership with the schools providing transportation and facilities, while the Parks & Recreation Department provides the staff, equipment and the organization of the registration and scheduling.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The staff was asked to look at the possibility of expanding the ACAC program beyond the four schools it currently serves.
- Soccer is not offered because the demand is not as high as the other sports offered by the schools.
- Any problems with parents are handled on a case-by-case basis.
- The ACAC program is coached by paid staff, ASU students or family members who sign up to coach.
- All games are overseen by staff, site supervisors and game officials.
- Game reports are turned so that staff can review them for any issues that need to be addressed.

Agenda Item 5 – Chair/Board Member Comments

Buddy Davis said it is a pleasure to work with Travis Dray, Mike Armfield and the rest of the staff.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Prepared by: Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant, (480) 350-5240

Reviewed by: Travis Dray, Parks and Recreation Deputy Department Manager, (480) 350-5182