
Minutes Parks and Recreation Board September 17, 2008

Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on September 17, 2008 7:00 p.m., Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Frank Granillo, Chair
Angela Thornton, Vice-Chair
Chuy Carreon
Buddy Davis
Ed Parker
Ed Roberts
Don Watkins

Members Absent:

Scott Hamilton - Excused

City Staff Present:

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation Department
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant – Parks & Recreation Department
Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation Department
Steve Amelotte, Parks & Golf Supervisor – Parks & Recreation Department
Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor – Parks & Recreation Department
Denise Rentschler, Marketing Coordinator – Parks & Recreation Department
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:04 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the August 20, 2008 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Clark Park & Pool Renovation

Jeff Velasquez and Doug Whitaker of J2 presented the park and aquatic concepts for Clark Park.

1. J2, along with Bob Pohlit & Sam Thompson, have hosted meetings with the Clark Park neighborhood to develop concept plans for the renovation of Clark Park.

2. Several concept plans were created for both the park and the aquatic sections of the park which were presented to the public.
3. The final concept plans were presented to the board.
4. Clark Park is a 10-acre residential park.
5. The park includes the Matt Mantei Field of Dreams that will remain as is.
6. The plans call for several amenities including 2 basketball courts, 1 volleyball court, play areas, shade structures, horseshoe pits, 4 ramadas, walking paths, a Hummingbird garden, and additional parking.
7. The recreation center, aquatics building and restrooms will all be under one roof.
8. There were 20-40 neighbors in attendance for each of the public meetings.
9. The neighborhood wanted to provide a facility for all ages.
10. The aquatics facility will include a 6-lane lap pool, a diving board, shallow water, spray & play pads, slides, shaded areas, a lazy river and much more.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- Parking will continue to be available on the street.
- The parking lot has been reconfigured to keep cars from cutting through the parking lot to avoid the speed humps on Roosevelt.
- Staff has identified healthy, mature trees that will remain in the park.
- Additional trees will be added.
- Lisa Roach, from the Clark Park Neighborhood Association, said she was satisfied with the process.
- She noted that the renovation would serve well to revitalize the neighborhood and perhaps draw in young families to the neighborhood.
- The play areas need to accommodate various age groups as the ages of the children in the neighborhood is ever changing.
- The budget for the park will determine which amenities are included in the final design.
- The combining of the aquatic facility, recreation center and the restrooms will cut down on construction costs.
- A clean, safe and fun park will attract more families which will, in turn, create a safer park environment.
- Most of the current picnic tables are not ADA accessible and will be removed.
- Staff can work with the transportation department to address traffic flow around the park and potential plans for street calming.
- The basketball courts and the pedestrian walking paths will be lighted.
- Solar heating may be considered to heat the pool and conserve water.
- The layout of the pool area can accommodate mobile or permanent bleachers for swim competitions.
- There will be a grassy area for sunbathers.
- A perimeter fence with safety lighting will surround the pool area.
- The neighbors were in favor of closing the restrooms during the evenings.
- Only one diving board was factored in so that lap lanes on the opposite side of the pool would be available for use.
- The start of construction will depend on the upcoming bond election.

Agenda Item 3 – Park Renovations

No Discussion.

Agenda Item 4 – Urban Forestry Report

Tina McKeand, Urban & Community Forestry Specialist, Davey Resource Group, notified the board of the Urban Forestry Program Study that is currently underway.

1. The Davey Resource Group has been providing urban forestry consultation for 125 years.
2. They were contracted by the City in July to develop an urban forest management plan for the City of Tempe.
3. They have conducted reviews of current policies, procedures, ordinances and general plan documents.
4. They have identified the “public trees” that can be found in right-of-ways, in parks and throughout City facilities.
5. They have determined the condition of the trees and analyzed their tangible benefits and value.
6. They have interviewed staff and management.
7. An on-line survey has been placed on the City’s page under the Hot Topics and is also available at www.tempe.gov/recreation.
8. The group will hold a community meeting on September 23, 2008 where they will outline their goals and strategies as they apply to the urban forest management plan.
9. The plan will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Board in December.

Agenda Item 4 – Marketing Program

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, and Denise Rentschler, Marketing Coordinator, reviewed their work on marketing Parks and Recreation programs and events.

1. The front line Parks and Recreation reception staff handles all of the calls and walk-in traffic for class registration, ramada reservations and requests for information on special events.
2. Denise Rentschler hired to do community outreach, while Shawn oversees budgets and contracts.
3. The benefits of parks and recreation programs are many including: economic, environmental, social, health and quality of life.
4. The Parks and Recreation Department oversees its neighborhood and regional parks, sports complexes, various classes and programs, special events and many other activities.
5. One of the goals of the marketing effort is to create a brand for Tempe Parks and Recreation that will tie all of the activities together so that the customers will know who we are as a department.
6. Additional goals include increasing awareness, participation and favorability of the parks and recreation programs that are offered.
7. Communication is key to achieving those goals.
8. Parks and Recreation “PLAY” banners have been placed throughout the city.
9. Pictures of the banners have been displayed on AZCentral’s home page.
10. A print “bug” from these banners will be attached to all flyers and other documents that are released for the Parks and Recreation office.
11. The marketing efforts will focus not only on the banners but also on the Tempe Opportunities brochure, flyers, public relations, e-newsletters, web sites, research and an ambassador program.

Agenda Item 6 – Rio Salado Update

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided updates on on-going projects in the Rio Salado area.

1. Plans for the Playa del Norte area were shared with the board.
2. Hayden Ferry Lakeside has received a permit for the construction of their third office building.
3. SunCor is working on plans for mixed use development on the south side of the lake between Mill & Rural.
4. The construction of the new restrooms at Tempe Beach Park will probably start sometime after the first of the year.

Agenda Item 7 – Elections

Motion: Ed Roberts moved to re-elect Frank Granillo as chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Second: Chuy Carreon

Motion Carried.

Motion: Ed Roberts moved to re-elect Angela Thornton as vice-chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Second: Don Watkins

Motion Carried.

Agenda Item 8 – October Meeting

There will not be an October meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Chair/Board Member Comments

Ed Parker was recognized and congratulated on his 42nd wedding anniversary.

Travis Dray was recognized and congratulated on the birth of his son Sawyer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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

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