
Minutes Parks and Recreation Board November 19, 2008

Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on November 19, 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
Scott Hamilton
Ed Parker
Ed Roberts
Don Watkins

Members Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation Department
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant – Parks & Recreation Department
Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation Department
Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Projects Coordinator – Parks & Recreation Department
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the September 17, 2008 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Park Renovations

Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Projects Coordinator, reviewed the status of recent, current and future park improvement plans.

1. The grand opening of Esquer Park was held on October 18.
2. The Hudson Park renovation is under construction. It should be open to the public in the spring of 2009.

3. Design plans for Evelyn Hallman Park are at 30%.
4. The construction design contract for Daley Park was approved last month.
5. The design contract for Goodwin Park will be presented for Council consideration in January.
6. The design contract for Scudder Park will be presented for Council consideration in December.
7. The renovations of Evelyn Hallman Park and Daley Park will use up a considerable amount of the renovation fund as they are both large parks, 40 acres & 17 acres respectively.
8. Goodwin and Scudder Parks will most likely be slated for the next fiscal year.
9. The master plan for the Clark Park and Pool renovations was presented to the City Council Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation & Maintenance Committee.
10. The final community meeting for Svob Park will be held in January.
11. The master plan contracts for Selleh Park and Meyer park will be forward for Council's consideration in December or January.
12. The scoreboard at Diablo Stadium will be replaced.
13. The restrooms at Kiwanis Park's Sister Cities Garden will be renovated.
14. The athletic field lighting study has been completed.
15. The light poles at Diablo Stadium, however, will need to be addressed first.
16. Interviews will be held for the design and replacement of the wave pool equipment at the Kiwanis Recreation Center.
17. Other improvements to the Kiwanis Recreation Center include: locker room renovations, re-plastering the pool and re-glazing the swimming pool slide.
18. New basketball lights will be installed in Mitchell Park.
19. Several parks will receive new electrical pedestals.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- Council will decide where the Clark Park and/or Pool renovations will fit into the park improvement schedule.
- Although the pool is safe for users, the facility has very low attendance due to its current condition and lack of amenities.
- Clark Park, built in 1949, has had a few "piece-meal" improvements but is in need of renovation.
- Building & material costs will fluctuate depending on the economy.
- Bob Pohlit and staff were congratulated on the development of Esquer Park.

Agenda Item 3 – Urban Forestry Update

Dana Karcher & Tina McKeand, of the Davey Resource Group, shared details of the Urban Forestry findings.

1. A draft outline was shared with the board.
2. The outlined defined the goals of the project and analysis of the data that has been gathered.
3. The draft also identified strategic plans for implementing a Urban Forestry Program in the City of Tempe.

Agenda Item 4 – Rio Salado Updates

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided updates for on-going project in the Rio Salado Area.

1. The new restrooms for Tempe Beach Park will be constructed in January.
2. Work continues on the south bank linear path.
3. The amphitheater in Tempe Beach Park was renamed after David L. Hanna.
4. On Tuesday, November 25, the lake will be stocked with trout.
5. Free fishing will be allowed from 3 – 5 p.m.
6. Volunteers installed Pistache trees in the Hayden Ferry Lakeside area to replace Mesquites that were lost in the recent storm.
7. The committee for the Veterans Memorial project will meet on December 10 at 7:30 a.m.
8. They hope to have the project completed by November 11, 2010.

Agenda Item 5 – Miscellaneous Items

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager, provided miscellaneous updates to the board.

1. The Ironman will take place this weekend.
2. The triathlon is a great revenue source for Tempe.
3. A list of the new council sub-committees was provided for the board.
4. The board was invited to participate in the upcoming meetings.
5. Mayor Hallman has been invited to attend the January 21 meeting the of the Parks and Recreation Board.
6. The Light Rail will be open to the public on December 27. Various entertainment will be provided at each station.

Agenda Item 6 – December Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Board will not meet in December.

Agenda Item 7 – Chair/Board Member Comments

Scott Hamilton took his son to the Halloween Festival at Kiwanis Park. He said it was a great event.

Parks and Recreation Board Members, Angela Thornton, Chuy Carreon, Frank Granillo and Don Watkins attended the Grand Opening of Esquer Park.

Ed Parker wished everyone a great Christmas.

Frank Granillo thanked the staff for all of their work on Esquer Park. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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