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## Minutes Rio Salado Advisory Commission December 2, 2008

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**Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on December 2, 7:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library, Conference Room 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.**

**Members Present:**

Dana Burkhardt  
Christina Cenzano  
Alana Chavez  
Michael Curlee  
Maureen DeCindis  
Sharon Doyle  
Eric Emmert  
Mary Hannaman  
Sue Lofgren  
Julie Ramsey  
Brett Siegal

**Members Absent:**

None

**Guests Present:**

Nancy Hormann (DTC)

**City Staff Present:**

Diane Johnson  
Nancy Ryan

**Christina Cenzano called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.**

**Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from October 28, 2008**

**Christina** asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes from October 28, 2008.

**MOTION:** Dana Burkhardt moved to approve minutes

**SECOND:** Eric Emmert

**DECISION:** Minutes were approved unanimously

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

There were no public appearances.

**Nancy Ryan**, Rio Salado Project Manager, presented **Maureen DeCindis** with an appreciation award for her service on the Rio Salado Advisory Commission. Maureen served on the commission from December 2003 to December 2008.

**Agenda Item 3 – Mill Avenue District Update**

**Nancy Hormann**, Downtown Tempe Community (DTC) Executive Director gave a presentation on how DTC is going to promote downtown Tempe. DTC wants to make downtown Tempe a

community gathering place for its citizens. Nancy stated they need to change the perception of the area and build-up the traffic. Show the public what Tempe is becoming and then give them a reason to visit.

- 1) Nancy said DTC wants to take the separate districts and market them together. The districts are Tempe Town Lake District, Mill Avenue District, University District, and Farmer's Market Arts District.
- 2) DTC is going to put together a "marketing suite" to show what spaces are available to be leased in downtown Tempe. It will show the size of the space, what tenant improvements will be needed, and who to contact to lease the space. DTC is also looking for boutique businesses to set-up shop on Mill Avenue.
- 3) To achieve more traffic DTC will have a parking & transportation program that promotes parking in downtown Tempe. There will be central valet parking with stands at each corner along Mill Avenue. Some of the other amenities will be flower baskets along Mill Ave. & Rio Salado Parkway, painting electrical boxes with unique designs, friendlier kiosks on the street, and a farmer's market on Thursday nights.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Lake Use Master Plan**

Nancy Ryan stated she has received several unsolicited proposals for use of the lake. The uniqueness of proposals raises the question about ultimate use(s) for the waters of Town Lake. She hopes to start a conversation among the city staff, lake users and citizens about a master plan for lake uses. She questioned whether the Rio Salado Commission feels that this is an important and valuable pursuit. Questions to explore in a master plan could be what activities do we want on the lake, where are the activities going to go, and are these activities time and/or location sensitive. Ideally, Rio Salado would like to establish a working committee from different departments within the City, and include community members to identify the scope of the plan.

**General discussion** regarding the **Lake Use Master Plan**, including:

- Some of the things the commissioners want to see at the lake are a water taxi, flexibility in boat use, floating stage, and a fishing derby. Nancy reported at the present time there is a staff committee evaluating possible stand-up paddleboard use on the lake as a regular permitted use.

#### **Agenda Item 5 - Committee Updates**

- Friends of Rio Salado – Julie Ramsey had nothing to report.
- Ad Hoc Committee for Papago Park and Rio Salado – Sharon Doyle reported the Ad Hoc Committee met three weeks ago with Shawn Wagner as facilitator. She said the city is working with Olson & Associates on a master plan for Papago Park. They are working on citizen input to the plan and looking at several master plans previously made.
- Enhanced Services Commission – Nancy Ryan reported the ESC met on November 12 where they elected new officers for 2009. Some of the issues discussed were the new council committees, interest in Lake & Mill District, and reviewed a list of potential projects for a future government economic stimulus package for states and cities. These project suggestions could start construction within 30 to 90 days.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Project Updates**

- Segway tours at Town Lake will start this Saturday. Segway will have an office in Hayden Ferry Lakeside and the cost for a 1 ½ hour tour will be \$75.

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- South Bank Path from TCA to Priest is scheduled to be finished this month and the art feature will be completed in March of next year.
  - Rio East Park 100% design plans have been completed. There is a meeting next week to finalize the plans and complete the budget negotiation for construction approval.
  - Contract for the Playa Del Norte Park and traffic circle upgrades on Playa Del Norte Drive is completed.
  - Namwest the owners of the old Club Rio site have filed for bankruptcy.
  - SunCor has found another hotel to replace the Le Meriden Hotel. The hotelier is completing the last of their agreement with SunCor and their name will be announced at a later date.
  - In October staff notified property owners around the lake that liens would be placed on properties that have not paid their CFD operation and maintenance lake assessments. Since the notice the unpaid assessments have reduced from \$42,000 to \$12,000.

The Committee's next meeting will be **January 27, 2009**.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM**

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

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Nancy Ryan  
Rio Salado Manager