



Minutes Parks and Recreation Board April 15, 2009

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on April 15, 2009 7:00 p.m.,
Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Scott Hamilton (excused)
Ed Roberts (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
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development Department

Meeting convened at 7:02 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The amended minutes of the February 18, 2009 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Urban Forest Management Plan

Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager, Parks Services, introduced Vince Mikulanis & Tina McKeand, of the Davey Resource Group.

1. A draft of the Urban Forestry Program Study was completed in mid-February.
2. A final document was presented for the board's comment and consideration.
3. The purpose of the plan is to strengthen the protection of the trees in the City.
4. The plan included recommendations for changes to the City Code and to Planning and Zoning.

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5. The recommendations include language that would prohibit activities that would damage trees and would require businesses that provide tree trimming services in public rights of way to have professional industry certifications.
 6. The plan also recommends that addition of an urban forester to oversee the City's tree inventory.
 7. The urban forester would also serve as an educational resource for the public regarding the care of trees.
 8. Other changes could include the requirement of additional trees to new development or contributions to an urban tree fund by developers.
 9. Developers might also be given specifics on what types of trees should be planted as well as the locations in which those trees should be planted.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The City currently has three (3) certified arborists on staff.
- The City does have a list of different tree species that are allowed or prohibited, but it has not been updated in many years.
- The board was concerned with the strong legal verbiage in the tree protection ordinance as it relates to the businesses that provide tree services to private consumers that have the responsibility of trees that are located on City property or in City right-of-ways.
- Before any changes can be made to the City Code, they would have to go through a public process.
- The document has been reviewed by staff.
- Developers should not be given the option of donating money to a tree fund as a way to avoid the tree requirements for new development.

Agenda Item 3 – Veterans Memorial Project

David Lucier, President, Tempe Veterans Foundation, presented plans for the Veterans Memorial in Tempe Beach Park.

1. The Tempe Veterans Foundation is involved in three (3) projects: the Veterans Memorial, Boots for our Troops and the 9/11 Healing Fields.
2. The memorial is planned for the west side of the park along the old Ash Avenue.
3. The project will include a “parade of veterans” depicted on 80 steel plates.
4. It will also include a centralized court area and an overlook/visitors center using the Ash Ave. bridge abutment.
5. The visitor's center is expected to generate revenue that will be used to sustain the project.
6. The project will be done in three (3) phases.
7. The opening ceremony for the project will be held on Monday, May 25 in Tempe Beach Park beginning at 4:00 p.m.
8. It is hoped that phase one will be completed by Veterans Day 2010.
9. The foundation is currently reviewing several funding options for the memorial.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The City may want to look at the number of accessible parking spots near the memorial to better accommodate veterans that visit the memorial.
- Ed Parker volunteered to help with the fundraising efforts.

Motion:

1st: Chuy Carreon made a motion to express the Parks and Recreation Board's unanimous, endorsement of the Veterans Memorial project as it was presented.

2nd: Ed Parker

Motion Carried.

Agenda Item 4 – Rio Salado Update

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided updates on projects in the Rio Salado Area.

1. The Earth Day 5K Fun Run event will take place on April 22 at the TCA Arts Park.
2. The RFP for a sports field is due April 27.
3. The new restrooms at Tempe Beach Park are under construction.
4. There will now be six (6) men's and six (6) women's restrooms.
5. The restrooms should be in use by the 4th of July.
6. Staff are reviewing possible options for the current structures.
7. A spring fish survey has been completed by Arizona Game and Fish.
8. An agreement has been reach with Bridgestone for the installation of four (4) new rubber dams at the west end of the lake.
9. There are still water flows coming into the lake.
10. These flows can affect the water quality of the lake.

Agenda Item 5 – Field Usage

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager, provided information on current field usage.

1. The packet included statistics on use by City programs and youth and adult programs.
2. The information also included current and proposed fees for groups that use City fields for their sports programs.
3. City sponsored youth and adult programs build in a fee to pay for field lights.
4. Non-City youth groups do not pay any fees for field use.
5. The City of Tempe is the only local city that does not charge youth groups for field use.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- While the City should be recouping some of the costs for providing lighted fields to youth organizations, they need to be careful that the youths are not displaced due to the implementation of higher fees for organized play.
- Some youth groups may offer scholarship programs to assist with registration fees.
- Staff are looking at fee and use policies of local communities.

Agenda Item 3 – Chair/Board Member Comments

Ed Parker has invited the Board to get involved with the Papago Park Project that is underway.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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

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