

Minutes Enhanced Services Commission January 13, 2010

Minutes of the Enhanced Services Commission held on January 13, 8:30 AM, at the Rio Salado Operations Center, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Kathy Berzins
Neil Calfee
Gary Cheek
Gordon Cresswell
Jerry Hart
Nancy Hormann
Randy Levin
Chris Salomone

City Staff Present:

Roger Hallsted
Andy Goh
Diane Johnson
Nancy Ryan
Mark Weber

Members Absent:

Chris Anaradian
Greg Loper
Mark Richwine

Meeting convened at 8:30 AM.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of meeting minutes: October 14, 2009

Randy Levin asked if the commission members had an opportunity to review the minutes from October 14, 2009.

MOTION: Neil Calfee moved to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Gary Cheek

DECISION: Minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Dam Replacement/Pedestrian Construction Schedule

Mark Weber, COT Principal Civil Engineer gave a summary of the construction schedule for the Tempe Town Lake Downstream Dam Replacement and the Pedestrian Bridge. Both projects were awarded to PCL Construction with the dam replacement cost being reimbursed by Bridgestone. Construction of the dam replacement will last 12 months with a coffer dam used to maintain the lake's water level. Mark stated they will try to recycle the rubber bladders that are removed.

The Pedestrian Bridge construction will cost \$6.3 million funded by Federal/City funds. The bridge will be built on the existing piers and take approximately 14 months to complete. It will be built in parallel with the dam replacement.

General discussion regarding the **Dam Replacement/Pedestrian Bridge Construction**, including:

- Randy asked when construction will start. Mark reported they are scheduled to start next week. Randy asked what media information will be given to the public. Nancy said staff is putting together a media package, signage on the north and south side of the dam, and a PowerPoint slide show on the City's web site.
- Randy asked if staff has addressed the answer of what type of dam we are going to use for the final replacement. Nancy said in 3 to 4 months staff will decide the dam option, the budget, and where the funding will come from.

Agenda Item 4 – Budget Update

Roger Hallsted, Rio Salado Financial Analyst passed out a graph showing the operating budget history of Tempe Town Lake from 1999 through last year. The graph is available at <http://www.tempe.gov/lake/CFD/CFD-Budget&Exp.pdf>.

Agenda Item 5 – Preliminary Budget for 2010-11

Roger also passed out a handout on the preliminary CFD budget for FY 2010/11. He explained the CFD O & M budget is down more than \$200,000 from last year. Staff looked hard at historical costs vs. actual costs, and then lowered water and electricity costs. Also security costs are down \$100,000 because Park Ranger positions went from 8 to 6 and one Police Sergeant.

General discussion regarding the **Preliminary Budget for 2010-11**, including:

- Randy stated the Rio Salado staff is doing a great job at managing the CFD budget.
- Jerry Hart asked if staff sees a potential of additional savings in the CFD funds. Nancy stated staff will be still looking at reducing costs further. Roger reported the wild card is the replacement water for the lake. If we have water flows then water replacement costs will be down.
- Randy asked the status of the Rio Salado trailer. Chris Salomone reported ADOT has chosen not to renew the lease for the Rio Salado trailer. The city is taking steps to terminate the lease and move staff to other city facilities and ultimately remove the trailer. Boat storage and parking will stay at this location. Chris stated boat permits are being sold at the Boating & Special Events Office located at 132 E 6th St. (6th St. & Forrest).
- Kathy Berzins asked how the water quality of the lake is doing. Nancy reported the water quality is easily managed when we pump. Last year the bypass pumping was activated for the swimming season in the spring & fall.
- Gordon Cresswell asked what happened to the Kyrene reclaim waterline. Nancy reported the Arizona Department of Water Quality requested six months of water testing. Also she reported the pipeline is not a fully funded project.

Agenda Item 6 – Boat Concession Survey

Nancy Hormann, Downtown Tempe Community Executive Director is participating to help develop a boat rental RFP for Tempe Town Lake. She reported a survey was designed and was sent to 3,000 people with a 20% response. They found:

- Most people come to the lake more than once a month

- Most people knew about the boat rentals at the lake
- 50% had been boating before and most of them came for recreational fitness
- Of those that came boating only ½ of them came to also do something else
- Majority use their own boat just slightly over rentals
- Most came on weekends & afternoons
- Paddle boats & kayaks are the rental boats they want
- Location and hours of rental operation are important
- Convenient parking was just as important as free parking
- Location of boat concessionaire – first choice is between the Mill Avenue Bridges and second choice is in Giuliano Park.

Nancy stated the survey confirmed the lack of connection between the district and the lake. DTC is talking about ways of getting the people who come to the lake to also go downtown and getting the people who go downtown to also come to the lake. DTC is recommending putting a kiosk on 5th & Mill that would promote all the activities downtown and the lake to increase the amount of visitors to the lake.

General discussion regarding the **Boat Concession survey**, including:

- Commission members suggested signage is needed off the Light Rail showing where the lake is.
- Kathy Berzins asked what the timeline is for the boat rental RFP. Nancy reported a working group met before the holidays and a survey has gone out.
- Randy & Neil Calfee suggested the boat rental RFP be issued as soon as possible so the lake boating activities return.

Agenda Item 7 – Reserve Study

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Project Manager gave a draft outline for a reserve study for facilities at Town Lake. She listed the capital facilities and long term capital improvements that fall under the responsibility of the CFD. These are dams, recirculation wells, dock systems, emergency warning system, and optional future facilities. The commission members concurred with the reserve study list. Nancy will also send it to Chris Anaradian for review. The study is projected to be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

General discussion regarding the **Reserve Study**, including:

- Randy asked if the lake functions without a bed liner. Nancy stated the lake is scoured in some places and silt has built up in other places. Staff has not seen an increased infiltration that would cause concern.
- Randy feels there is a fiduciary responsibility to do a reserve study.

Agenda Item 8 – Project Update

- Chris S. announced in a few weeks there will be Pedestrian Bridge model that will be displayed at TCA, Library, and the Post Office.
- Nancy reported a series of parks & paths will open in January & February including Rio East Linear Park, Playa Del Norte Park, and the ground breaking of the Phase III Habitat. There will be a ribbon cutting/ground breaking ceremony next month.
- Tempe received a design grant for a path from Tempe Marketplace to Dobson Road in Mesa. Staff is moving forward on the design component of the 2-mile path. The

city does not have the funds for the project but staff will be looking for funding from MAG and some Federal Funds.

- Neil reported Brad Gorman has decided not to develop the 9 ½ acres at Rural Road & Rio Salado Parkway.
- Nancy H. reported as of today there is no funding for the Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade next year. DTC is looking for a new sponsor.
- Kathy Berzins stated TCA has been open for two years and staff is looking for ways to increase revenue and cut cost. The center likes to showcase arts & culture of local artists. “Walk in Wednesday” an open mike night is very popular at the TCA.
- This year’s Block Party was held in downtown Tempe instead of in TBP. Nancy H. reported attendance was down by one-third. She also stated downtown merchants would like to see the event go back to TBP so they can include a cover charge for entry. Nancy H. said the events staff does a great job, but events are not a park issue but an economic issue. She said we need to look at the lake as an economic development. Neil also suggested the City make it an economic issue because there is a direct impact when events are successful, the city makes money.

The Committee’s next meeting will be April 14, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Prepared by: Diane Johnson
Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Project Manager