



Minutes City Council's Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation & Maintenance Committee September 16, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation & Maintenance Committee held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 3:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Joel Navarro, Chair
Councilmember Mark Mitchell

City Staff Present:

Jan Hort, City Clerk	Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Travis Dray, Dep Rec Mgr	Bob Pohlit, CIP Coordinator
Shane Isabell, Rec Coordinator	Sam Thompson, Dep Mgr, Parks
Jeff Carroll, Parks & Rec	Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs

Councilmember Navarro called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Review of Minutes

The August 19, 2009, minutes were accepted.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Downtown Vegetation Concepts

This agenda item was postponed.

Agenda Item 4 – Right of Way Improvement Concepts

Jeff Carroll gave a presentation regarding right-of-way development standards, materials and applications. Materials are chosen based on their compatibility with their surroundings and vary throughout Tempe. There is an eclectic mix of trees, some of which are no longer appropriate and will be phased out over time. Currently, staff is looking at creating distinctive entryways into Tempe using various landscape designs.

City staff, contracted services and homeowners associations all play a role in maintaining right-of-way landscaping. The goal is to have a uniform palette for each street or district. Councilmember Mitchell asked staff if they are looking into grant funding for these types of project. Jeff Carroll replied that staff is in the process of applying for an Urban Forestry Grant. Mark Richwine stated that staff is trying to achieve themes and textural relationships throughout Tempe. Landscaping designs for industrial districts are also included in this plan. Councilmember Navarro stated that he would like to have an outside consultant look at this landscaping proposal for their input. Councilmember Mitchell suggested that ASU be considered for this consultant role.

Councilmember Navarro commented that it is important for landscaping details and expectations be built into contracts, so that maintenance standards are clearly defined.

Agenda Item 5 – Sports Field Use and Analysis of Need Recommendations

Travis Dray stated that staff has benchmarked what other communities are doing in terms of sports field usage policies. Residency rates are built into that study. A guideline draft policy has two priorities: 1) built around use for residents; 2) maintain healthy field conditions at an affordable cost.

Shane Isabell talked briefly about the proposed field allocation priorities being proposed by staff:

1. City of Tempe sponsored youth/adult programs
2. Partnering agencies with an intergovernmental agreement
3. Non-profit Tempe youth organizations who are comprised of at least 70% Tempe residents
4. Non-profit Tempe adult organizations comprised of at least 70% Tempe residents
5. Tempe residents and any remaining request including: for-profit groups, tournaments, club teams, and other groups not meeting eligibility criteria listed above.

Staff is prepared to do periodic residency checks for participating groups to ensure they are being prioritized according to guidelines. Mark Richwine stated that staff is looking at premium use fields versus neighborhood parks. Some feedback that staff has received is from residents being disturbed by field users, primarily on weekend evenings.

Mr. Dray stated that staff intends to present the draft guidelines to user groups in November to get their feedback. Staff will also be making a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Board for their input and feedback. The revision of these policies and fees will bring Tempe's recreational field policies into line with surrounding communities.

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Kay Savard

Reviewed by: Sam Thompson

Jan Hort
City Clerk