
Minutes Parks and Recreation Board June 17, 2009

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on June 17, 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
Ed Roberts
Don Watkins

Members Absent:

Scott Hamilton (excused)

City Staff Present:

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation Department
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant – Parks & Recreation Department
Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Projects Coordinator – Parks & Recreation Department
Dick Mickle, Volunteer Coordinator – Parks & Recreation Department
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development Department
Yvette Mesquita, Sr. Mgmt. Assistant – Parks & Recreation Department

Meeting convened at 7:01 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Selleh Park Master Plan

Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Projects Coordinator, introduced Jackie Keller of Logan Simpson Design.

1. Jackie presented the preliminary master plan for Selleh Park.
2. Three public meetings were held to solicit feedback for the plan.
3. The neighborhood asked to upgrade and enhance the existing park features.
4. The plan includes, but is not limited to, a concrete pathway around the pond, three (3) access points to the pond, age-appropriate play areas with shade, a splash pad,

additional ramadas, benches and pathways, a landscape buffer between the park and the alleyways on both the north and south sides, a new, lighted basketball court, a floating log for turtles and a water spray feature in the pond that will also serve as an aerator.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The pond is not a part of the urban fishing program, but contains fish that come in from the canal.
- Of the master plans that have been done so far, Selleh Parks has the least amount of changes to its current layout.

Agenda Item 3 – Rio Salado Update

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided information on projects in the Rio Salado area.

1. An economic consultant has been selected to evaluate the two (2) proposals for the amateur sports facility.
2. Plans are in the works for the 10th anniversary of Tempe Town Lake.
3. The construction of the Rio East linear park is underway and will continue through December.
4. The path relocation and the signage for the ADOT construction have been installed.

Agenda Item 4 – Volunteers

Dick Mickle, Volunteer Coordinator, shared information on volunteer hours provided to the Parks Services division.

1. From January through June 2009, there have been a total of 10,931 hours of volunteer hours provided.
2. This equates to approximately \$186,920 in value.
3. Dick assists the public to help them not only provide a benefit to the parks, but to themselves as well.
4. Volunteer groups consist of local groups, social groups, church groups, corporations, scouts and court-appointed community service groups.
5. Volunteers have come from all over the valley.
6. Volunteer tasks include clean up projects, painting, trail construction, tree pruning, weed removal etc.

Agenda Item 5 – Levels of Service

Yvette Mesquita, Sr. Mgmt. Assistant, spoke about the Levels of Service project.

1. The Levels of Service information is in draft form.
2. The Levels of Service is critical right now because they are reducing staff.
3. For the last few years, the staff has been working on a maintenance management plan.
4. A team was put together to determine what the asset inventory is, identify the maintenance tasks that are performed, establish a task time standard, define the service level based on annual task frequency, create an operations manual and develop a computerized program that would assist them with tracking their assets, resources and labor.
5. The asset inventory is about 95% complete and the draft document of the plan is at 90%.
6. This document will be used as the staff will be reduced by 10 by June of next year.

7. Three levels of services have been identified.
8. Parks with the high visitation and use will be maintained at a level 1, which is the highest level of maintenance. Parks with high to low usage will be maintained at a level 2 and parks that are undeveloped or are remote natural park areas, will be maintained at a level 3.
9. From 2001-2010 the staff will have been reduced by 35% (20 full-time employees).
10. However, even though new areas such as Tempe Town Lake have been added to the parks inventory, over the last 10 years there have been no additions to the parks maintenance staff.
11. The redevelopment of parks has also increased the number of maintenance tasks required to maintain them and there has not been any additional staff.
12. With the staff reductions, they may have to lower their maintenance levels.
13. The staff is looking at creative ways to keep maintaining parks at their current level of service by contracting out menial tasks such as trash and litter pickup, bee services, pest control for city buildings as well as increasing volunteer involvement through an adopt-a-park program.
14. They are also looking at ways to decrease landscaping and other amenities to reduce maintenance needs.
15. They want to educate boards, neighborhoods and the public that if they want additional amenities for their parks and other locations, then additional staff will be needed.
16. New areas that have been recently added to the parks inventory include the extension of 6th Street Park, 5th Street garage, Esquer Park – all with no additional staff.
17. Other parks are on the list for renovation, with no added staff, but the staff will do their best to maintain them at the current service levels.
18. The staff members do take pride in their work and will do their best to maintain the parks.
19. The Rio Salado staff has come up with funds to help pay for part-time staff or contracted labor to assist the Parks Maintenance Division in their duties.
20. The Level of Service plan will illustrate that if new parks or amenities are added, and no additional staff is provided, then maintenance levels of existing areas will need to be adjusted.
21. Losing 20 staff members over the last 8 years is significant.
22. Three full time staff members have been dedicated to the Rio Salado area, while part-time/contracted staff have assisted with other menial tasks around the city.
23. Staff has been communicating the need for additional staff for new or renovated projects for the last five years.
24. The document will allow staff to point out what is required for maintenance operations such as safety gear, chemicals and other tools and supplies.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- Although requests have been made for additional staff when new areas or parks are added to the inventory or parks have been renovated, no additional staff members have been approved.
- There may be a point in time where staff will be unable to maintain the current levels of service due to cuts in staff.
- As parks age, they become more expensive to maintain.
- Hopefully, when the budget allows for additional staff, the parks maintenance division will be considered a priority.
- The levels of service will allow staff to let the council know how parks can be maintained based on available staffing.

- Part-time/contracted staff does not always provide the same level of care as full-time employees do as there is no ownership.
- This information will be shared with the council subcommittee chaired by Councilmember Navarro.
- Staff may want to suggest ways to make the parks less labor-intensive when parks are renovated.

Agenda Item 6 – Chair/Board Member Comments

The next meeting will be held on September 16.

Ed Parker's term will end on August 31.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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