



Minutes Parks and Recreation Board September 16, 2009

Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on September 16, 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
Scott Hamilton
Don Watkins

Members Absent:

Ed Roberts (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
Michelle Konnath, Special Events Supervisor – Parks & Recreation Department

Meeting convened at 7:03 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Meyer Park Master Plan

Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Projects Coordinator, introduced Jeff Velasquez of J2.

1. Jeff presented the Preferred Alternative Master Plan for Meyer Park.
2. The plan was a result of three (3) public neighborhood meetings.
3. The amenities requested for the master plan included, but are not limited to, a splash play area, two (2) basketball courts, shade, tables, benches, a volleyball court, dog park, a perimeter trail and a multi-use field.
4. The dog park has been designed to allow one side, or the other, to be closed to allow for maintenance tasks.
5. The neighborhood meetings were well attended with 40+ neighbors in attendance at each of the meetings.

6. There was a good cross section of families with young children, families with older children and active adults at the meetings.
7. The volleyball court and the basketball courts will have lights.
8. The hours for the splash play areas can vary depending on weather, maintenance etc.
9. There will be four (4) 20 X 20 ramadas and 4 shade structures.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The dog park will accommodate all sizes of dogs.
- The area will be well lit.
- The heavy traffic in dog parks can be hard on the turf, but preventative maintenance steps can be taken to protect the turf and encourage growth.
- There were some concerns with the amount of space designated for the dog park.
- Prior to the renovation process, the neighborhood had been actively been looking for grants that would allow them to build a dog park.
- The Parks and Recreation Board has the policy of allowing those that live in the neighborhood to select the amenities that they want in their park.
- The neighborhood was invited to comment on the master plan after it was completed. There were 76 responses.
- The neighbors that live within 1 square mile of the park are notified by mail of each public meeting.
- The plan will be forwarded to the council committee for their review.
- The construction for Meyer Park may be about two years out. Therefore, another public meeting will be held before the construction design is started to see if the neighborhood has any changes that they would like to make.

Motion: Don Watkins made a motion to support the Preferred Alternative Master Plan for Meyer Park.

Second: Scott Hamilton

Motion carried 4 - 1.

Agenda Item 3 – Play Day

Michelle Konnath, Special Events Supervisor, invited the board and their families to participate in Play Day.

1. The event will be held on Saturday, September 19, from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and Kiwanis Park.
2. Play Day is a free community event that will include kayaking, kickball, baseball/softball batting practice, tennis drills & skills, NFL Punt, Pass & Kick, jump rope, chalk art, inflatable's and more.
3. Tempe was selected as one of the 92 Play Day cities across the nation by Kaboom!
4. Tempe's participation by holding the Play Day event will enter the city in a drawing for \$25,000 in playground equipment.

Agenda Item 4 – Sports Field Use and Analysis of Need Recommendations

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager, presented recommendations made regarding the use of city fields for sports programs.

1. The initial analysis has been presented to two (2) council committees.
2. The field use analysis included benchmarks from surrounding cities, current users demographics, usage and maintenance costs.

3. The recommendation is to prioritize usage by category as follows: City of Tempe programs, Tempe schools, non-profit groups that are comprised of at least 70% Tempe residents, non-profit adult groups and other groups.
4. The recommendation also includes a maximum number of hours that can be programmed for each field. This will ensure the health of the fields so that they can remain open to the public throughout the year and reduce maintenance costs.
5. This plan will allow the City of Tempe to provide quality fields to those that are paying to use them.

Motion: Scott Hamilton made a motion to support the recommendations made by staff.

Second: Angela Thornton

Motion carried.

Agenda Item 5 – Chair/Board Comments

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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

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