



Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission

**Minutes
Rio Salado Advisory Commission
October 28, 2008**

held on October 28, 7:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd., Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Dana Burkhardt
Christina Cenzano
Alana Chavez
Maureen DeCindis
Sharon Doyle
Eric Emmert
Mary Hannaman
Sue Lofgren
Julie Ramsey
Brett Siegal

Members Absent:

Michael Curlee

City Staff Present:

Dee Dee Kimbrell
Edith Ross
Nancy Ryan

Guests Present:

Christina Cenzano called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Project Manager, introduced Rio Salado Advisory Commission's newest member **Eric Emmert**. Eric stated he is VP for the Dorn Policy Group, a Phoenix public affairs firm. He did government relations work for the Tempe Chamber of Commerce from 2000 to 2005 and has been active in the community. His company represents the Arizona Planning Association and the East Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2008

Christina asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes from September 23, 2008.

MOTION: Mary Hannaman moved to approve minutes

SECOND: Dana Burkhardt

DECISION: Minutes were approved unanimously

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Urban Open Space Update

Nancy said there have been no major changes to the Urban Open Space Plan since the commission was given a presentation on the plan. She stated you can view the plan on the city's website at anytime. Nancy said the new City Manager has looked at the plan and he wants to see Tempe go from a good place to a better place. The city will continue to work with the concepts to plan development around the lake.

General discussion regarding the Urban Open Space Update:

- Asked if the Urban Open Space plan has been accepted by city council. Nancy stated it has not been presented to the council.

Agenda Item 4 – Brownfield Grant Application

Nancy reported Rio Salado is putting together a request for a Brownfield Clean-up Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The targeted area for the grant is the Elements project located west of the Tempe Center for the Arts. There are three parcels within the development and the city is requesting \$200,000 per parcel for a total request of \$600,000.

- 1) Tonight's meeting will be one of the community meetings requested by the EPA. After tonight the grant application will go on the November 6th IRS agenda. Submittal for the grant will be by November 14, 2008. Comments from the public need to be provided no later than November 12, 2008. The application can be reviewed at the Rio Salado Operations Center, 620 N. Mill Ave. M – F 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.
- 2) Nancy stated 60% of the design for the infrastructure of the Elements project has been completed. Council has authorized \$6.5 M for the remediation and infrastructure for the development.
- 3) The city has completed two development agreements for the Elements development with Roberto Venn School of Luthiery and Meltdown Glass. The city is still completing discussions with Arizona Bronze and Childsplay for their development agreements.

General discussion regarding the Brownfield Grant Application, including:

- Nancy was asked if the grant funds would cover the cost to clean up the landfill and she said it would not cover the total cost.
- She also reported the city wants to use deep dynamic compaction for the remediation of the area. This technique was used at Tempe Marketplace where they drop heavy weights at intervals to compact the dirt.

Agenda Item 5 – Council Committees/Rio Salado Foundation

Nancy stated the Mayor has formed a Mill/Lake District committee to combine the two areas. They will look at the vision and continuing development for the Rio Salado Project, Papago Park, and the Mill Avenue District. The first meeting of the committee is expected to be on December 4th at 4 p.m. in the Mayor's office and headed by Chris Salomone. Alana Chavez suggested that the RSAC start a dialogue with the Rio Salado Foundation and the Mayor's committee to focus on the Mill/Lake District. Alana reported she sat down with the Mayor last week to discuss this topic.

Nancy announced Nancy Hormann is the new Executive Director for Downtown Tempe Community (DTC).

General discussion regarding the **Council Committees/Rio Salado Foundation:**

- The RSAC suggested meeting with the Rio Salado Foundation to get an update on progress of funding for the Rio Salado projects they both support. They also suggested meeting with DTC and Papago Salado. The commissioners decided to postpone these meetings until after the first meeting of the Mill/Lake District committee.

Agenda Item 6 - Committee Updates

- **Friends of Rio Salado** – Julie Ramsey reported the Halloween Scary Boat ride last Friday night was successful. They had over 100 calls from citizens wanting to go on the boat ride. They are discussing whether to expand the event next year.
- **Ad Hoc Committee for Papago Park and Rio Salado** – Sharon Doyle reported she is meeting with the city staff tomorrow to define what the Mayor wants the committee to focus on. She is planning to meet with the committee members sometime before Thanksgiving.
- **Enhanced Services Commission** – Nancy Ryan reported the ESC meeting had an update on the annual budget and the city's budget challenges. It has been reported the city could have up to a 3 to 7 million dollar shortfall this year. Staff is looking into HR/benefits, revenues/expenditure, and a re-organization as ways to help with the budget deficit.

Agenda Item 7 – Project Updates

- Dave Hanna memorial medallion will be installed in Tempe Beach Park by mid November. A dedication gathering will be scheduled for sometime in the future.
- This week staff is filing for a bicycle shared use path design grant with MAG.
- The general plan amendment process for the Elements project has been completed.
- Multi-use path from the TCA to Priest landscaping is being installed and will open in mid-November. The art component of the path will be installed in December & January.
- Rio East Park design has 90% to 100% of the plan completed.
- Pedestrian Bridge will go to council in November/December for contractual approval with construction starting in January 2009.
- South Bank infrastructure is close to completion. Rio Salado Parkway is open to one lane on north side of the road.
- City of Phoenix is doing rehabilitation of the Val Vista Water Line affecting four Tempe sites. The sites are the Pennysaver lot, west of Rio Salado Pkwy & McClintock, ½ mile from McClintock, and one site north of the 202. Marketplace site will start on January 2nd.
- A city staff paddleboard committee has been set up to look into allowing paddleboards on the lake.

The Committee's next meeting will be **December 2.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager