



Minutes Rio Salado Advisory Commission December 8, 2009

Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on December 8, 7:00 PM at the Rio Salado Operations Center, 620 N. Mill Ave., Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Dana Burkhardt
Alana Chavez
Michael Curlee
Eric Emmert
Mary Hannaman
Sue Lofgren
Julie Ramsey

Members Absent:

Sharon Doyle
Brett Siegal

City Staff Present:

Diane Johnson
Dee Dee Kimbrell

Guests Present:

Alana Chavez called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from August 25, Sept. 22 & Oct. 27, 2009

Alana asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes from August 25, 2009.

MOTION: Sue Lofgren moved to approve minutes

SECOND: Mary Hannaman

DECISION: Minutes were approved unanimously

Alana asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes from September 22, 2009.

MOTION: Julie Ramsey moved to approve minutes

SECOND: Mary Hannaman

DECISION: Minutes were approved unanimously

Alana asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes from October 27, 2009.

MOTION: Mary Hannaman moved to approve minutes

SECOND: Julie Ramsey

DECISION: Minutes were approved unanimously

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – 10 Year Anniversary Economic Review

Dee Dee Kimbrell, COT Senior Planner reported the cost of Tempe Town Lake as of fiscal year 2009 is \$216 Million with an economic impact of \$414 Million. She stated new businesses are coming to downtown Tempe with the Mill Ave shops filling up by first of next year.

Dee Dee reported a proposal is moving forward for a 2% increase in Tempe's bed tax. It is supported by DTC, TCVB, and the Chamber of Commerce.

To help celebrate the Tempe Town Lake 10 year anniversary a birthday party is planned for Saturday, December 12 at Tempe Beach Park from 3 to 7 PM. The APS Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade will follow from 7 to 9 PM. The birthday party will have music, information booths, kid's games, cake contest, rowing, and fireworks.

General discussion regarding the **TTL Economic Review**, including:

- Lana asked what kind of businesses are coming to downtown Tempe. Dee Dee stated retail stores are starting to fill up vacancies on Mill Ave.
- Michael stated the completion of Center Point will help support the new businesses.
- Lana asked what the development status is around the lake. Dee Dee reported development is slow. One project that has started is the USACOE Habitat Restoration Phase III from the east dam to McClintock. Also the downstream dam bladder replacements will start the first of next year and followed by the Pedestrian Bridge.

Agenda Item 4 – Concessions and Vendor Update

Dee Dee gave a concessions and vendor update.

- 1) Segway of Tempe is up and running giving tours around the lake.
- 2) Bicycle Cellar is a new bike rental shop at the Transit Center, 200 E Fifth St, Suite 105. Bikes can be rented from them and used on the paths around the lake.
- 3) Staff is working with Sport Chalet on kayak rentals that can be used on the lake.
- 4) Dee Dee asked the RSAC members to take a boat concession survey on the Town Lake web site www.tempe.gov/lake.

General discussion regarding the **Concessions and Vendor Update**, including:

- Michael Curlee asked what kind of incentive is there for someone to want to be a boat rental vendor.
- Dana Burkhardt asked if ASU Recreation Center rented kayaks. He said the center rents camping equipment to students and thought they may also rent boats.

Agenda Item 5 – Parks Operation & Maintenance Transition

Dee Dee announced Town Lake boating permits will be sold at the Parks & Recreation Boating & Special Events Office starting January 11, 2010. This office is located at 132 E. 6th St. on the NW corner of 6th & Forrest. Their hours of operations will be Monday – Friday 8am to 5 pm. She also announced the Rio Salado Operations Center will be moving from the trailer, 620 N. Mill Ave. by December 2010.

Agenda Item 6 - Committee Updates

- Friends of Rio Salado – Julie Ramsey report the “Scary Boat Ride” on Halloween was a great success. She stated they are thinking about expanding the boat ride with more boats next year. The narrator, Randy Smith did a superb job.
- Ad Hoc Committee Tempe Papago Park Master Plan – There was no update.

Agenda Item 7 – Rio Salado Project Updates

- 1) Nancy Ryan is working on the Rio Salado Management Plan and it will go to Council soon.
- 2) Playa Del Norte Park is having turf installed next week. The park has a bio-retention area that will catch water and filter it back into the ground. A shade canopy permit will be submitted soon for this area. The project should be completed by the end of the year. The round-a-bout on Playa Del Norte has been completed with gabion baskets, plantings, and solar lights.
- 3) Rio East Linear Park, located on the south bank from Rural Road to east dam, will be completed by end of December. The items left to complete are installation of light fixtures, laying of granite, and pouring a section of concrete.
- 4) USACOE is starting construction on the path from east dam to McClintock.
- 5) There will be a Grand Opening Ceremony of Path Projects in January.
- 6) Tempe/Mesa Path is in the design stage.
- 7) The Fiesta Bowl Block Party will be December 31st in downtown Tempe.

General discussion regarding the Rio Salado Projects Updates, including:

- Alana would like to see more discussion on the connectivity of downtown Tempe and the lake. Dee Dee reported City staff is working on guidelines & a scope of the area. At the last Mill and Lake District Committee meeting a PowerPoint presentation was given on downtown streetscapes showing existing conditions with a suggested reference plan and matrix. Staff wants to create a visually exciting, vibrant, and memorable environment.

The Committee’s next meeting will be **January 26**.

MOTION: Sue Lofgren motion to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Mary Hannaman

DECISION: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Manager