



PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

Rio Salado Advisory Commission

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Hatton Hall

34 E. 7th St., Tempe

AGENDA

- 1. The Rio Salado Advisory Commission proposes to ratify prior actions and information from March 23, 2010, per the Arizona Open Meeting Law, §38-431.02 Notice of Meetings.**
- 2. Public Appearances** – The Rio Salado Advisory Commission welcomes public comments at this time only for items listed on this agenda. There is a three-minute time limit per citizen.
- 3. Tempe Butte Grant Application – Mark Vinson**
- 4. Papago Park Master Plan Update – Shawn Wagner**
- 5. ADOT Enhancement Grant Application – Nancy Ryan**
- 6. Development Trends – Nancy Ryan**
- 7. Committee Update**
 - Friends of Rio Salado – Julie Ramsey
 - Enhanced Services Commission – Nancy Ryan
- 8. Project Update**

According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Rio Salado Advisory Commission may only discuss matters listed on the ESC agenda. The City of Tempe endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. With 48 hours advance notice, special assistance is available at public meetings for sight and/or hearing-impaired persons. Please call 350-8241 (voice) or 350-8400 (TDD) to request an accommodation to participate in a public meeting.

Minutes Rio Salado Advisory Commission March 23, 2010

Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on March 23, 7:00 PM at the Rio Salado Operations Center, 620 N. Mill Ave., Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Alana Chavez-Langdon
Sharon Doyle
Mary Hannaman
Sue Lofgren
Julie Ramsey

Members Absent:

Michael Curlee
Eric Emmert
Brett Siegal

City Staff Present:

Diane Johnson
Greg Jordan
Nancy Ryan

Guests Present:

Dana Burkhardt

Alana Chavez-Langdon called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2010

Alana asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes from January 26, 2010.

MOTION: Sharon Doyle 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 – Member Recognition

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Project Manager recognized and thanked Dana Burkhardt for his contributions and service to the Rio Salado Advisory Commission from January 2007 to December 2009.

Agenda Item 4 – Transit Fund Update

Greg Jordan, COT Transit Administrator gave a presentation on the update & development of the bus & rail service reductions. The transit fund revenue & expenditure forecast is projected to

have an \$18 million deficit in the next three years. The Transportation Commission directed staff to put together a three year budget balancing program. With the feedback from the public, staff has put together 13 service reduction options. The program plans for a \$3.5 Million in bus-rail service reductions in FY 2010-11. Greg reported the recommended changes will go to council on May 20th and if approved will go in effect July 2010.

General discussion regarding the **Transit Fund Update**, including:

- Alana asked Greg what are the current revenue sources for the transit program. He reported the funding comes from sales tax, bus/light rail fares and misc. state & federal revenue. She also asked what the ridership on the Orbit bus is. Greg stated 3.2 million boardings per year.
- Greg stated in the long range transit forecast there is a line item for a mode of transportation to be selected by the south Tempe study. It is separate from the current Transit budget deficit.
- Alana asked if the modes of transit are working as a system and don't have multiple duplication points. Greg stated the four major transit modes of the system are made to interconnect to facilitate their travel and duplication of services is to be reduced.
- Alana asked if any of the transit modes use alternative fuel. Greg responded Transit uses liquid natural gas (LNG) for the local buses and plans on converting the Orbit buses to LNG or compressed natural gas sometime in the future. Alana also asked for short distances could transit use electric vehicles? Greg said ideally transit would like to see a small quiet electric hybrid in the neighborhoods with a capacity to carry the loads.
- Nancy asked when we would be able to get back to level of service before reductions. Greg stated Transit's long term goal is to get back to the level of service stated in the 2006 transit tax.
- Sue Lofgren would not like to see Orbit service reduced during events in downtown Tempe.

Agenda Item 5 – Rio Lago Update

Nancy reported the City of Tempe has reached a settlement agreement with Rio Lago Cruise. They have stopped boat tours on the lake and their small craft rentals ended in September. The kiosk they used in Tempe Beach Park will be available for future concessions. An RFP for rentals boats is expected to go out the end of this month.

Agenda Item 6 – Salt River Channel (Priest to SR143)

Six months ago Nancy met with north Tempe residents and the Tempe Aviation Commission to talk about the residents concerned that the Rio Salado Project was creating such a great habitat that it was causing the planes to fly over their neighborhoods. At the meeting she presented how the city is addressing and mitigating the habitat so it is not a hazard to aviation.

Since then Nancy reported staff has been working with Phoenix Sky Harbor concerning the Salt River Channel from Priest Dr. to SR143 (HoHoKam Expressway). She reported recently there has been more vegetation in the low flow channel due to the water flows. There are green areas both west and east of Priest Dr. and east of SR143. The Sky Harbor Airport is looking at the possibility of putting together a study to evaluate what can or should be done to these areas. This area is within the 10,000 foot critical zone at the end of the runways. The airport will work with Tempe to find solutions.

Agenda Item 7 – Unsolicited Proposals

Nancy gave a short summary of two proposals.

- 1) Diana Kaminski, COT Senior Planner secured a \$50,000 ARRA grant for energy efficiency with a proposed solar demonstration project. Staff identified an idea to put solar panels on or near the Splash Playground to generate power to run the playground water pumps. Diana is looking at solar shingles and bifacial photovoltaic panels. She is also looking for partners to help fund the project.
- 2) DTC is seeking to have a Levitt Pavilions placed in TBP. Levitt Pavilions is an outdoor performance venue, characterized by grassy lawn seating, top quality sound and lighting, and first-class music and performing artists. Levitt has five pavilions across the U.S. The foundation provides a partial grant for the capital construction of the pavilion, a grant/gift for the first five years of operation and helps with music programming.

Committee Consensus: Rio Salado Advisory Commission members support the idea of pavilion but not the location in TBP. They feel the park is being carved up and won't be useable with so many different venues in it. They suggested moving the pavilion west of the railroad bridge.

Agenda Item 8 - Committee Updates

- Friends of Rio Salado – Julie Ramsey reported there was no update at this time.
- Ad Hoc Committee Tempe Papago Park Master Plan – Sharon Doyle reported the Ad Hoc Committee has completed its input into the Papago Park Master Plan. Next step is to develop an Intergovernmental Agreement between Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tempe to accept the concept plan.

Agenda Item 9 – Project Updates

- 1) Nancy handed out brochures with information of What's Happening at the lake, bike rentals near transit center, TCA events and the Tempe Opportunities Brochure.
- 2) Alana reported she attended the March 4th council meeting to voice the commission members concerns about the ordinance No.2010.03 to sunset the RSAC. At the meeting the ordinance was passed and the Mayor stated the commission member will have other opportunities to serve in different capacities. The commission members stated they are disappointed the commission will sunset in December 2010.

The Committee's next meeting will be on **April 27** in Hatton Hall.

MOTION: Sue Lofgren moved to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: Sharon Doyle

DECISION: Meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM

Prepared by: Diane Johnson
Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Manager