



## Minutes Rio Salado Advisory Commission May 25, 2010

Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on May 25, 7:00 PM at Hatton Hall, 34 East 7<sup>th</sup> St., Tempe, Arizona.

**Members Present:**

Alana Chavez-Langdon  
Michael Curlee  
Mary Hannaman  
Sue Lofgren  
Brett Siegal

**Members Absent:**

Sharon Doyle  
Eric Emmert  
Julie Ramsey

**City Staff Present:**

Diane Johnson  
Nancy Ryan  
Mark Vinson  
Shawn Wagner

**Guests Present:**

Kolby Granville

Alana Chavez called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Agenda Item 1 – Ratify prior action and information from March 23, 2010**

**MOTION:** Sue Lofgren moved to ratify action and information from March 23, 2010

**SECOND:** Mary Hannaman

**DECISION:** Approved unanimously

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

There were no public appearances.

**Agenda Item 3 – Tempe Butte Grant Application**

**Mark Vinson**, COT City Architect stated two years ago the City received a grant from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to clean-up Tempe Hayden Butte. The butte is significant to the Indian Community and is designated as a Park Preserve and a Historic District. The grant money was used to remove some of the communication towers from the mountain. This year the City is reapplying for another grant to complete the project to remove as much equipment as possible from the butte and stabilize the upper trail from the water tanks to the top. As a part of the grant Tempe is proposing an overlook to be constructed at the end of the trail to allow for contemplation and enjoyment of the scenery, while discouraging off trail access. The city wants to enhance Hayden Butte Preserve as a destination spot with great views of Tempe.

**General discussion** regarding the **Tempe Butte Grant Application**, including:

- Alana would like the concept to be simple and not take away the beauty of the mountain. She supports replacing the eyesore with a great recreational spot with a view.
- Sue Lofgren stated her husband has always been interested in making the butte a diversity park with statues and make it a focal point of Tempe.
- Alana asked if the project would have a shade structure. Mark stated the Indian Community would not likely support anything above the top of the peak. He said the platform will create a shaded area where benches could be placed underneath it.

**Agenda Item 4 – Papago Park Master Plan Update**

**Shawn Wagner** from the COT Parks & Recreation Department gave an update on the Papago Park Regional Master Plan. He reported the communities of Tempe, Phoenix, Scottsdale, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community joined together to create a master plan for Papago Park. The master plan cost \$580,000 to complete with the Indian Community contributing \$384,000, and the cities of Tempe and Phoenix each contributing \$100,000. The project had six regional meetings for community input and took just under a year to complete. Tempe also had an Ad-Hoc Committee chaired by Sharon Doyle for community involvement.

Through the design process they came up with seven recommendations. They are to improve collaborative management, link existing signature amenities, cooperative branding and messaging, strengthen sense of place, upgrade infrastructure, progressive management techniques, and have a visitor center. The plan wants to link the existing signature amenities such as the Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Gardens, golf courses, Arizona Historical Society, Hall of Flame, and Sandra Day O'Connor House. Shawn reported the next step is to go to the executive committee for approval.

**General discussion** regarding the **Papago Park Master Plan Update**, including:

- Alana asked about access points, connectivity, and public transportation to the park. Sean stated the connectivity of the park will be addressed as the plan is implemented.
- Sue Lofgren said the first step is to have a Papago Park brochure with a map showing all the amenities and how to get to them. Then distribute the brochures to the Library, TCA, Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Gardens, etc. Shawn stated as the plan moves forward the map will morph as new amenities are added.
- Brett would like the visitor center to be connected to an existing amenity such as the zoo to help staff the center and help with future costs to run it.

**Agenda Item 5 – ADOT Enhancement Grant Application**

**Nancy Ryan** stated the city of Tempe, Mesa, and USACE are working together on a 2-mile multi-use path. It runs from McClintock Drive at Tempe Marketplace along the south bank of the Salt River under the 101/202 exchange to Dobson Road. The conceptual design has been completed. Staff is now applying for an ADOT enhancement grant for the portion of the path that runs under an ADOT right-of-way at a pinch point under the exchange. The grant application is supported by Tempe, Mesa, ADOT, Maricopa County Flood Control, USACE, and Mesa Riverview and Marketplace commercial development. In addition to the larger path design the project will also include overlooks, rest points, vista points, and a transitional area.

**General discussion** regarding the **ADOT Enhancement Grant Application**, including:

- Sue asked if solar lights will be used on the path. Nancy stated none of the lights are solar, but LED lights were being considered for one of the fixtures.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Development Trends**

**Nancy** gave a summary of the current development trends occurring in Rio Salado. She stated there has been unsolicited interest in boat tours on the lake. Rio Salado also had an inquiry about a stand-up paddle board concession at the lake. At the present time a Recreation Boating Equipment Rental Concessionaire RFP is out with a due date of June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Nancy stated this economy has challenged several of the Town Lake Projects. She reported the remainder of the unsold Northshore Condominiums went to auction in mid May. Grigio recently filed bankruptcy to organize its debt. In addition a portion of the old Club Rio site has been sold and the remaining Club Rio property is in the process of being sold to the same buyer.

#### **Agenda Item 7 - Committee Updates**

- Friends of Rio Salado – There was no report due to Julie Ramsey's absence.
- Enhanced Services Commission – Nancy Ryan reported at the April 14<sup>th</sup> ESC meeting commission members approved the proposed CFD budget which was then taken for its first Council hearing last Thursday. The second hearing will be on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Nancy also brought to the meeting three reserve study proposals for infrastructure improvements around TTL. The reserve would replace dams, pump houses, and wells. The study would show when replacement would be needed and how much money it would cost.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Project Updates**

- 1) Suncor is selling their ownership in Hayden Ferry Lakeside to another valley developer.
- 2) The Dam Replacement/Pedestrian Bridge Project is expected to mobilize in the next two weeks. The City has received one bladder and another one is on its way. Hunter Construction will do the repair work, riprap, and build a ramp. PCL will then replacement the rubber bladders and follow by placing the Pedestrian Bridge on top of the dam.
- 3) Staff is close to taking the phase 1 design contract to Council for the Veterans Memorial. The design would be prepared in approximately six months.

**Committee Consensus:** ESC members voted to take a summer hiatus in June & July. The Committee's next meeting will be **August 24**.

**MOTION:** Michael Curlee moved to adjourn the meeting

**SECOND:** Brett Siegal

**DECISION:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

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Nancy Ryan  
Rio Salado Manager

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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Nancy Ryan  
Rio Salado Manager