
Minutes Rio Salado/ Papago Park Ad Hoc Committee May 7, 2009

Minutes of the Rio Salado/ Papago Park Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on May 7, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., Library Conference Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Sharon Doyle, Chair
Bob Gasser
Ed Parker
Lisa Roach
Darlene Justus
Shane Anton

Members Absent:

Mary Ann Miller
Stu Siefer

City Staff Present:

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor– Parks & Recreation
Isabel Flores, Assistant Recreation Coordinator – Parks & Recreation
Mike Crusa, Mayor's Chief of Staff – Community Relations

Meeting convened at 4:06 p.m.

Sharon Doyle, chair, called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes: April 14, 2009

Committee members approved minutes for meeting held on April 14, 2009.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

No public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Papago Park Public Workshop

Committee members discussed the Papago Park Public Workshops held on April 29, 2009.

- Bob Gasser thought the public turnout was great and liked their comments. Though he felt the audio was not good and some of the team's presentation skills needed improvement. He also commented on the survey's questions. He felt there were not enough questions about the history of Papago Park and additional ethnicities classifications should be added i.e. Native Americans and Native Hawaiians.

-
- Mike Crusa, Mayor's Chief of Staff, informed the committee that both workshops had a great turnout. There were 80 people that attended the morning workshop and 75 people that attended the evening workshop that were true participants and not members of the media or stakeholders.
 - Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, said the public's geographical locations are being tabulated. The results are forthcoming.
 - Shane Anton said the workshop and information provided was good overall. He also agreed the audio needed improvement. He was encouraged to know that the preservation of Papago Park is the focus and that there weren't plans for adding new buildings.
 - Mike Crusa, Mayor's Chief of Staff, commented that it was nice to hear the feedback from the public workshops. He is very pleased with the work of Olsson Associates.
 - Sharon Doyle, chair, would like to know if the Discover Papago Park survey could be condensed.
 - Mike Crusa, Mayor's Chief of Staff, would like the public to be encouraged to complete the survey, while having the option to skip a few questions. All feedback is relevant.
 - Darlene Justus is happy with the questions and how the workshop was presented. It was true brainstorming where there are no bad ideas and people have a voice.

Agenda Item 4 – Rio Salado / Papago Park Public Outreach

Darlene Justus provided committee members an overview of the North Tempe Neighborhood Association - Papago Park Master Plan Sub-Committee's recommendations for the Papago Park Master plan. Afterwards Rio Salado / Papago Park Ad Hoc committee members finalized details for outreach to Tempe residents.

North Tempe Neighborhood Association – Papago Park Master Plan Sub-Committee's recommendations:

- 1) Desert Preservation
 - a. Designate "Sonoran Desert Preserve" Regions
 - b. Develop improvements to stay within established foot prints
 - c. Do no more harm to remaining desert regions
 - d. Do not expand Rolling Hills Golf Course footprint
 - e. Protect remaining desert regions
- 2) Tempe Papago Park Management
 - a. Establish Tempe Papago Park Administration and Management
 - b. Implement permit review process
 - c. Overview and approval process for all volunteer projects, construction, trail building, events, re-vegetation projects
 - d. Fashion after Rio Salado Management with emphasis on desert resources, preservation, archeological resources, Native American heritage and education
- 3) Re-vegetation
 - a. Only native Sonoran desert plants
 - b. Plant in style of the desert
 - c. Adopt Evelyn Hallman Park policy regarding palm trees

-
- d. Remove all small and volunteer palm trees
 - e. Do not replace mature palm trees as they die out.
 - f. Purpose: Do not scalp the park
 - g. Do not drastically and suddenly affect habitat
- 4) Roadway access
 - a. Limits in desert regions
 - b. Respect vegetation and habitat
 - 5) Trails, shelters, etc.
 - a. Protect desert regions
 - b. Establish trail heads
 - c. Define and mark trails – keep on trails signage
 - d. Shelters in a design to compliment desert
 - 6) Visitor center to focus on:
 - a. Sonoran desert education and preservation
 - b. Native American Heritage
 - c. Archeology
 - d. Historic Preservation
 - e. Education
 - f. Offer periodic tours
 - g. Maps – What to see and how to get there. Do not forget North Tempe region
 - h. Develop and offer audio tours
 - i. Locate near light rail and adjacent property – Not park
 - j. Bicycle rental concession
 - k. Fishing pole rental and 1 day license
 - l. Urban and state fishing licenses
 - 7) Transportation
 - a. Establish connectivity throughout the park, Tovrea and Pueblo Grande, North Tempe Regions with Historical Society Museum, Sandra Day O’Conner & Eisendrath Houses and Evelyn Hallman Park
 - b. No new parking lots in park
 - c. Identify park and ride locations outside of park
 - 8) Rolling Hills Golf Course
 - a. Maintain current footprint
 - b. Do not expand into desert regions
 - c. Keep as executive course – develop challenge
 - d. Develop evening economic opportunities. Such as lighting the driving range, putting and chipping areas for night revenue
 - e. Go green – solar and non-potable water
 - f. Desert course possibilities
 - 9) Horseback Riding Stables
 - a. Maintain historic presence of horses in Papago Park
 - b. If Papago Stables sells – Tempe to issue Request for Proposal for new vendor
 - c. NTNA supports continued boarding of horses as necessary to make this economically feasible
 - 10) Fishing
 - a. Address inadequate policing of illegal fishing practices
 - b. Delegate necessary enforcement authority to park rangers
 - c. A fish cleaning station in needed at each urban lake
 - 11) WWII German Officer POW huts
 - a. Relocate the two remaining POW huts into Papago Park

-
- b. Location preferences: near military museum (need improved accessibility), near Elks Club (site of POW camp, Elks oversight) Reserve Military south of Oak (site of POW camp), Tempe's Papago Park
- 12) Airport exhaust and noise – Impact on Papago Park
- a. Concerned with any runway expansions at Phoenix Sky Harbor
 - b. Increase in over flights and/or a widening of flight paths into Papago Park.
 - c. NTNA oppose a fourth runway. Concerned about detrimental impact, citizens and visitors park experience, endangered species at Phoenix Zoo, Papago Park & Botanical Desert Vegetation, Native Habitat and safety

Rio Salado/Papago Park Ad Hoc Committee members finalized details for Tempe public outreach.

- Mike Crusa, Mayor's Chief of Staff, informed committee of Mayor Hugh Hallman's wishes for them to hold three public meetings but two meetings will be ok.
- Mike Crusa also mentioned that many are excited for the May 19th Let's Talk Tempe with Mayor Hallman. Sharon Doyle will be a guest as will the committee. Together they will encourage people to take the online survey.
- Jeff Kratzke, Olsson Associates, will also attend the series and will bring reference boards and 100 surveys for the audience.
- Lisa Roach suggested that school boards should get involved.
- The committee will make a flier that will target family inclusion. The fliers will be distributed to the schools with the Kid Zone Enrichment Program. The committee will also ask A.S.U. for access to their list serve to encourage students to take the online survey.
- Sharon Doyle, chair, announced the next public workshop will take place June 15, 2009. She would like to meet with the committee prior to the workshop to bring forth Tempe concerns.
- Tempe public outreach is scheduled as follows:
 - May 30, 2009 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Police South Substation - Auditorium
 - June 30, 2009 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Pyle Center – Multipurpose Room
 - July 30, 2009 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Transportation – Don Cassano Room
- Sharon Doyle, chair, Lisa Roach and Bob Gasser have formed a sub-committee that will determine format.
- The committee will inform the Tempe public of the upcoming Tempe workshops by publications with The Wrangler News, a list serve notice, neighborhood associations with the help of Shauna Warner, City of Tempe – Neighborhood Programs Director, and Tempe Channel 11 – Community events.

Agenda Item 5 – Future Agenda Items

Sharon Doyle, chair, asked committee members to submit ideas for future agenda items to either herself or Shawn Wager, Recreation Supervisor.

Agenda Item 6 – Chair Board Member Comments

Committee members gave their final comments.

- Committee will not meet May 12, 2009
- The next meeting will take place June 9, 2009 at 4:00 pm

Meeting convened at 5:25 p.m.

Prepared by: Isabel Flores, Assistant Recreation Coordinator, (480) 350-5266

Reviewed by: Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, (480) 350-5299