
Minutes Parks and Recreation Board February 20, 2008

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on February 20, 2008 7:00 p.m.,
Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.**

Members Present:

Frank Granillo, Chair
Angela Thornton, Vice-Chair
Chuy Carreon
Buddy Davis
Andrea Esquer
Scott Hamilton
Ed Parker
Ed Roberts
Don Watkins

Members Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant – Parks & Recreation
Hansen, Planner – Redevelopment/Special Projects
Don Hawkes, Manager – Water Utilities Department
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:02 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The amended minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting were accepted.

Agenda Item 2 – Rio Salado Updates

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided updates for various projects in the Rio Salado Area.

1. The following projects are under construction: Pier 202, the south bank linear park and repairs to the splash playground.

2. The following projects are in the design phase: Army Corps Habitat Pathways, Rio East Park and the pedestrian bridge.
3. The following development agreements are in process: Tempe Town Lake Boathouse and the Between the Bridges project.
4. The design for the Playa del Norte Park is under revision.

Agenda Item 3 – Project for Public Spaces, Open Space Presentation

Hansen, Planner for the Redevelopment & Special Projects Division, provided an overview of the open space plan prepared by Project for Public Spaces.

1. Project for Public Spaces (PPS) was selected to take a critical look at development throughout the city and creating connections to various destinations.
2. PPS was asked to produce a laundry list of best planning strategies.
3. The draft was broken down in 3 components: maintenance standards, wayfinding and best planning practices.
4. Some of the suggestions identified in this document have already put into practice.
5. Staff will meet with ASU to discuss redesigning the Brickyard area with principles identified in this study.
6. Hayden Square will also be redesigned.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The complete plan is available on-line at www.tempe.gov/comdev/urbanopenspace.htm and the board was asked to review the document and provide feedback.
- Comments will be shared with the mayor and council.
- A wayfinding study may be issued to look at parking, light rail, etc.

Agenda Item 4 – Papago Park Water Line Update

Don Hawkes, Water Utilities Manager, shared information on the plans to repair the areas affected by the installation of the Papago Park Water Line.

1. A 60" line was installed spanning from Curry to Scottsdale Road and a 42" line was installed between Scottsdale Rd. and Stadium Dr.
2. This line ran from the Johnny G. Martinez Water Plan, west of the Tempe Historical Museum and the Papago Ballfields, through the park until it reached Curry Rd.
3. Areas behind the museum had to be blasted.
4. These areas will be re-vegetated with Foothill Palo Verde and Saguaro Cactus.
5. Irrigation to the new vegetation will be provided until they can survive on their own.
6. A new driveway leading to the WUD Administrative Offices and the perimeter will be moved to the north.
7. The land south of the new perimeter, including the water pond that is used to feed the green line pond in Papago Park on the south side of Curry, will be added back to the park.
- 8.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- Papago Park is used by bikers, walkers and horseback riders.
- Staff is working with the Historical Museum to create new trails.

Agenda Item 5 – Chair/Board Member Comments

Frank Granillo introduced new member, Don Watkins.

Don shared his background with the Parks Board. He was director of the parks and recreation department in Escondido, California and he also worked as a playground equipment salesman in Tempe.

Ed Roberts said the Ken McDonald Golf Course is in excellent condition and he would like to give “kudos” to the maintenance staff.

There will not be a meeting in March.

Spring Training begins February 28. There have already been two games that have sold out.

Upcoming agenda items include a presentation from Diversity on ADA Access, downtown development and parks maintenance service levels.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Prepared by: Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant, (480) 350-5240

Reviewed by: Travis Dray, Parks and Recreation Deputy Department Manager, (480) 350-5182