

Minutes Parks and Recreation Board May 21, 2008

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on May 21, 2008 7:00 p.m.,
Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Chuy Carreon (excused)
Ed Roberts

City Staff Present:

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation Department
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant – Parks & Recreation Department
Michelle Konnath, Special Events Supervisor – Parks & Recreation Department
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:01 p.m.

Frank Granillo called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the April 16, 2008 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Downtown Development Update

No discussion.

Agenda Item 3 – Rio Salado Updates

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided information related to the Rio Salado Area.

1. Downtown Tempe was named the best place to live for “vertical dwellers” by Phoenix Magazine.

2. A photo of the lake and the Hayden Flour Mill was featured in Arizona Highways Magazine.
3. Sunset Magazine identified downtown Tempe as a good place for a southwest day trip.
4. A groundbreaking was held for Southbank.
5. Construction continues on the south bank path between the Tempe Center for the Arts and Priest.
6. Staff continue to work on relocation plans for the restrooms at Tempe Beach Park.
7. The plans call for an additional four (4) restrooms for a total of twelve (12).
8. The retention basin for Playa del Norte will be renovated to enhance its use as park space, while still providing retention capabilities.
9. 60% plan designs were presented for the south bank Rio East linear park which will span from Rural to the west end dam.
10. The paths will be ADA accessible and will lead to the ADA accessible docks.
11. The path will be 20 feet wide, with 12 feet belonging to the City.
12. Tempe Town Lake was awarded the "Community Facility of the Year 2008" award by the Arizona Disabled Sports organization.
13. The Mayor is forming an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of members from the Parks Board, Rio Salado Commission, Historical Museum Board, Historical Preservation Commission and the North Tempe Neighborhood Association to provide feedback for the Papago Park Ad Hoc Executive Committee.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The Board has concerns about the safety of placing the new restrooms on the backside of the outfield fence.
- They would like additional information regarding the distance to the proposed site, the age of the players that use the field and what other options may be available.
- Council has requested additional information in regards to the proposed Segway tours at Tempe Town Lake.
- Frank Granillo wanted to make sure that their hours of operation would not impact special events, especially those that bring large numbers of people to the lake such as the 4th of July Spectacular.

Agenda Item 4 – Special Events

Michelle Konnath, Special Events Supervisor, provided information on all areas within the Special Events Division.

1. The Special Events Division consists of special events, both large and small, boating and Diablo Stadium.
2. There are 7 full-time special events staff.
3. The 2008 Spring Training season at Diablo Stadium had a record attendance of almost 114,000 fans.
4. Ten of the games were sold out.
5. Diablo Stadium was 4th in attendance, behind the Giants, Cubs and the Mariners.
6. The 2008 season also saw record numbers in both merchandise and concessions revenue.
7. Diablo Stadium also hosts games for NABA, MSBL and the High School Baseball State Championships.

8. In addition, there are festivals, concerts, corporate events and car shows that are held at the stadium.
9. The boating division includes: kayaking, rowing, dragon boats, outriggers and sailing.
10. There are approximately 1000 boating students that are involved in boating each year.
11. "A Day at the Lake" introduces students to the various boating opportunities that are available on the lake.
12. The Special Olympics Kayaking State Championships, in association with the Arizona State Games, have been held at the lake for the past two (2) years.
13. This year, there were over 80 participants.
14. The Special Olympians are first taught water safety at Kiwanis Lake.
15. The Special Events division is responsible for large events such as the 4th of July Spectacular and the Tempe Music Festival.
16. They also oversee the various community walks and runs held at the lake and throughout Tempe.
17. A breakdown of the all special events that are held in Tempe was presented.
18. The vast majority of the events that are held are free and open to the public.
19. Most of the events provide for donations to local charities.
20. The addition of the Arts Park has provided additional space for special events and has allowed the staff to spread out the events so that Tempe Beach Park is "open" more often.

Agenda Item 5 – Summer Meetings

The tentative date for the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting is August 20.

Agenda Item 6 – Chair/Board Member Comments

Don Watkins visited the Tennis Center at Kiwanis Park to take a look at the surface for the new courts. He said he was impressed with the material and feels that it will make them first class courts. Jerry Judkins provided him with information on the new courts as well as a sample of the new surface material.

Travis Dray let the board know that a grand opening will be held for the new Tennis Center courts. He also informed the board that the City Council has approved a bond election for later this year.

Frank Granillo congratulated to two newly elected council members.

Buddy Davis attended the Light Rail Station Planning Meeting with Frank Granillo. He said it was very interesting and that there are big changes planned for the Apache Boulevard corridor.

Frank Granillo serves on the Light Rail Ad Hoc Committee and they are looking at how to extend the Light Rail from University to the south end of Tempe. They feel that Rural Rd. may be their best bet.

Travis Dray offered to have Bob Pohlit provide information on how the Parks and Recreation Department continues to meet ADA guidelines as new parks and amenities are constructed. The board said they are satisfied that current ADA guidelines are being met.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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

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