



Minutes Parks and Recreation Board May 20, 2009

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on May 20, 2009 7:00 p.m.,
Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.**

Members Present:

Angela Thornton, Vice-Chair
Chuy Carreon
Scott Hamilton
Ed Parker
Ed Roberts
Don Watkins

Members Absent:

Frank Granillo, Chair (excused)

City Staff Present:

Travis Dray, Deputy Manager – Parks & Recreation Department
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant – Parks & Recreation Department
Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Projects Coordinator – Parks & Recreation Department
Shawn Wagner, Recreation Coordinator – Parks & Recreation Department
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager – Community Development Department

Meeting convened at 7:01 p.m.

Angela Thornton called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Park Renovation Update

Bob Pohlit, Parks & Capital Projects Coordinator, Parks Services, provided updates on various park projects.

1. The athletic field lighting for Diablo Stadium fields 1 & 2 are in design and will be installed in November.
2. The fields are currently being used for daytime activities.
3. The design of the field lighting for Daley Park has been started.

4. Daley Park will have one field that can be used for both soccer and baseball/softball.
5. The field will be designed so that both fields can be used simultaneously.
6. The design for the sprinkler system at Kiwanis Park is at 90%.
7. The preliminary work for the sprinkler system will begin in August.
8. Approximately 200-300 trees will be added to the park as a part of the construction.
9. These trees will be located along the walkways.
10. The Hudson Park restroom renovation was just completed.
11. The restrooms at Sister Cities Gardens will be demolished.
12. Construction of the new restrooms will begin in June.
13. The plans for new restrooms at Daley park are under design.
14. The plans for the replacement of ramadas 9, 10, 11 & 12 and the addition of three new ramadas at Kiwanis Park are in the permitting stages.
15. The construction should begin in July or August.
16. The design of plans for new wave pool equipment at Kiwanis Recreation Center should begin in June, with construction beginning in January or February 2010.
17. The wavepool will continue to be used for regular swimming sessions during the replacement.
18. The new scoreboard for Diablo Stadium will be installed in June.
19. Esquer Park was opened last year.
20. Hudson Park has been renovated and the Grand Re-Opening was held on May 17.
21. Hallman Park is at 60% design. Construction should begin in the fall.
22. Daley Park is at 30% design. Comments are currently being accepted from the public. Construction should begin early 2010.
23. Scudder Park is in the preliminary stages of design. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2010.
24. Goodwin Park construction will begin in July 2010.
25. The design of Clark Park & Pool will begin in 2010 and construction should begin sometime in 2011. The park will not be renovated until the pool construction is completed.
26. Svob Park renovations will begin in 2010/2011.
27. The master plans for Selleh and Meyer will be in design in 2011/2012 with construction beginning in 2012/2013.
28. The design & construction of Celaya, Dwight and Indian Bend Park will follow.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The current recreation center at Clark Park is approximately 50 years old and needs to be replaced. Sometimes it is less expensive to construct a new building than trying to renovate an old building.
- Ed Roberts suggested looking at naming rights as a way to bring in revenue and offered to put together some information for the board's review.
- The Parks and Recreation Department has the Memorial Tree Program and the Trees for Tempe Program that are set up for installation of new trees in Tempe's parks and golf courses.
- Staff is looking into the use of stimulus funds for park projects.

Agenda Item 3 – Rio Salado Update

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, provided information on projects in the Rio Salado area.

1. The two proposals that were received for the amateur sports facility RFP are under evaluation.
2. Grant applications will be submitted for the Eisendrath House, the Town Lake boathouse, a by-pass pump for the lake and field and pathway lighting.
3. The new restrooms at Tempe Beach Park are open.
4. The old restroom structures will remain in the park and may be used for storage for event activities.
5. Staff has started planning Tempe Town Lake's 10th anniversary celebration.
6. Although the actual anniversary occurs in November, the celebration will be held in conjunction with the events that are scheduled to take place in December.
7. There will be a Memorial Day event in Tempe Beach Park that will raise funds for the Arizona Academy of Performing Arts and a ceremony will be held to kickoff the Veterans Memorial project.
8. The Rio East Park will be under construction shortly.
9. Staff is working with ADOT on the north path relocation as a part of the freeway expansion.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The comments regarding the layout for the new restrooms at Tempe Beach Park were taken back to the design team for their consideration.
- The field near the Tempe Beach Park is used by Little League.
- The fields are usually used at night during the week and not during special events.
- Staff was asked to look at additional shade opportunities in Tempe Beach Park.

Agenda Item 4 – Papago Park Update

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, was asked to update the board on the Papago Park Regional Master Plan.

1. There have been several master plans created over the years by both Tempe and Phoenix.
2. For the first time a regional effort is underway to create an overall master plan.
3. The group consists of representatives from Tempe, Phoenix, Scottsdale and the Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC).
4. Although Scottsdale does not own any part of the park, they have the highest number of residents bordering Papago Park.
5. Plans include, but are not limited to reintroducing or increasing native vegetation, education activities, environmental efforts and creating a destination.
6. The planning effort includes public awareness campaigns and community workshops.
7. There are also various committees with representatives from all interested parties.
8. The Parks Board was encouraged to attend the upcoming workshops scheduled for May 30, June 30 and July 30.
9. The SRP-MIC issued a \$400,000 grant for the planning effort.
10. The plan should be completed by the end of September.

Agenda Item 5 – Kiwanis Tennis Court Update

Larry Funk, Recreation Coordinator, provided an update on the activities at the Kiwanis Tennis Center.

1. 15 courts were renovated using the Rebound Ace tennis court surface.
2. The responses regarding the new courts have been positive.
3. The courts are cleaned and washed on a monthly basis.
4. There are four (4) mini-courts that are used for the Quick Start youth program.
5. The tennis center recently received a national award for being a Top 50 Tennis Welcome Center.
6. The tennis center employs 9 part-time teaching pros.
7. Usage is up 13% over last year.
8. Group lessons are up 47% over last year.
9. The classes and programs have been revamped so that they are on-going and participants are directed to the website to enroll instead of waiting for the brochure to come out.
10. The absence of breaks in the tennis programs ensures continued participation.
11. Drop-in play is up 4%.
12. 73% of revenue is derived from tennis lessons, while the lessons only take up 30% of court time.
13. Research shows that tennis is the only sport that is experiencing a positive growth.
14. The staff puts a lot of emphasis on the junior program and the Quick Start program.

Agenda Item 6 – Chair/Board Member Comments

The Board was asked to direct interested parties to www.discoverpapagopark.com for information on the Papago Park master planning process.

Interested board members were invited to enroll in the boards and commissions orientation that is scheduled for June 30, 6-9:30 p.m., TLC.

The board will meet again in June and then will not meet again until September.

Board members were invited to contact staff for information on any topic that they are interested in advocating. Staff will be able to give them historic and current information so that they can have that information on hand before addressing council committees.

Travis Dray announced Mark Richwine's upcoming retirement on June 30, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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

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