

Minutes Rio Salado Advisory Commission January 27, 2009

Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on January 27, 7:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library Conference Room, 3500 S Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Dana Burkhardt
Christina Cenzano
Alana Chavez
Michael Curlee
Sharon Doyle
Mary Hannaman
Sue Lofgren
Brett Siegal

Members Absent:

Julie Ramsey
Eric Emmert

City Staff Present:

Diane Johnson
Nancy Ryan
Mark Vinson

Guests Present:

Christina Cenzano called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2008

Christina asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes for December 2, 2008.

MOTION: Sue Lofgren moved to approve minutes

SECOND: Alana Chavez

DECISION: Minutes were approved unanimously

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Veterans Memorial Concept

Nancy Ryan introduced **Mark Vinson**, COT Principal Architect and stated they were both members of the Veterans Memorial Committee. Mark gave a presentation on the design for the memorial.

- 1) Mark stated this concept combines two projects, the rehabilitation of Ash Avenue Bridge Abutment and a Veterans Memorial. He explained in 1990 the old Ash Ave Bridge was

demolished leaving the abutment and path leading to it. Both are designated historic properties. The concept would rehabilitate the Ash Ave Bridge with a lookout point for the Veterans Memorial located below.

- 2) The Veterans Memorial Committee is looking for support and donations to complete the project. The City of Tempe has set aside \$500,000 for the project. The Committee's goal is to have one of the components of the project completed by Veteran's Day 2010.

General discussion regarding the **Veterans Memorial concept**, including:

The RSAC members would like to see an Arizona contribution of service in the design. One member was not sure about the veteran's parade of panels and how they would look. They were also concerned about the entry off TBP parking lot being used as a pass through and not a reflection area. Someone suggested a small wall could be used to direct traffic in that area.

Committee Consensus: RSAC gave approval for the Veterans Memorial concept.

Agenda Item 4 – Amateur Sports Facility

Nancy reported that council and staff are discussing putting out another Amateur Sports Facility RFP for the 52 acres located on Rio Salado Parkway west of Priest Drive.

Agenda Item 5 – 2009/2010 Budget

Nancy reported the city is preparing for the next fiscal year's budget with a re-organization. Overall the city is considering a reduction in employees and a transfer of people to different departments. A proposed 180 positions are targeted to be eliminated with more cuts planned in the following two years. The reorganization concepts are expected to go in effect at the start of the next fiscal year (July 2009). One of the changes proposed is the merging of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission with the Parks Board.

Agenda Item 6 - Committee Updates

- Friends of Rio Salado – Julie Ramsey was absent from the meeting and an updated report was not given.
- Ad Hoc Committee Tempe Papago Park Master Plan – Sharon Doyle shared with the commission an Arizona Republic article announcing Olsson Associates has been hired by Tempe for \$576,987 to consult on the Tempe Papago Park Master Plan. She reported the money is primarily coming from the Salt River Pima Indian Community. Sharon met with Nancy Ryan who gave her different and creative ways to solicit more public involvement in the project. The Ad Hoc Committee's next meeting will be on February 12 with Mayor Hallman attending.

Agenda Item 7 – Project Updates

Nancy gave a short summary of projects in Rio Salado.

- 1) A medallion honoring David L. Hana has been placed in the center of the Tempe Beach Park Amphitheater. A ceremony to celebrate this honor was held on December 19, 2008.
- 2) Aloft Hotel's grand opening will be held on February 5, 2009.
- 3) Nancy announced the City of Tempe received a Smart Growth Award from Arizona Urban Land Institute for community planning, sustainable development, and urban infill.

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- 4) Nancy also announced MAG has awarded the cities of Tempe and Mesa a \$142,000 design grant for the Multi-Use Path along the Salt River from McClintock, under the 101 & 202 to Riverview Park in Mesa.
 - 5) In December Segway began tours at Town Lake. Segway tours are given by appointment only.
 - 6) Multi-Use path from TCA to Priest will open next week.
 - 7) Construction on the new restrooms in Tempe Beach Park has been started and should be completed by April/May.
 - 8) The Pedestrian Bridge project has a short fall in funding and staff is looking at other options to keep the project moving forward.

The Committee's next meeting will be **February 24**.

MOTION: Alana Chavez moved to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: Brett Siegal

DECISION: Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Manager