



Minutes Rio Salado Advisory Commission April 28, 2009

Minutes of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission held on April 28, 7:00 PM at the Rio Salado Operations Center, 620 N. Mill Ave., Tempe, Arizona.

Members Present:

Dana Burkhardt
Christina Cenzano
Alana Chavez
Michael Curlee
Sharon Doyle
Mary Hannaman
Sue Lofgren
Julie Ramsey

Members Absent:

Eric Emmert
Brett Siegal

City Staff Present:

Diane Johnson
Nancy Ryan

Christina Cenzano called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2009

Christina asked the commission members if there was a motion to approve the RSAC minutes from March 24, 2009.

MOTION: Julie Ramsey moved to approve minutes

SECOND: Mary Hannaman

DECISION: Minutes were approved unanimously

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Urban Forestry Study

Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Project Manager distributed a handout on the Urban Forestry Program Study and the Right-Of-Way (ROW) Tree Resource Analysis report prepared by Dave Resource Group. The City of Tempe initiated the study to result in an urban forestry management plan to ensure the growth, sustainability, and overall health of Tempe's urban forest.

- 1) From the study came a citizen's online survey showing trees are important to the character and quality of life in Tempe. The survey also showed the benefits of shade to lowering air temperatures and energy consumption are highly valued by the citizens.

- 2) The analysis showed the majority of Tempe's ROW trees are estimated to be in fair condition. Maintaining these existing trees in accordance with best management practices will increase their useful lifespan and maintain a flow of benefits.
- 3) An Urban Forestry Management Plan will communicate the importance and value of trees. Some of the things the plan would do are create an urban forester position, provide an inventory management system, and expand education about trees and tree care.
- 4) City Code and ordinance designates the Parks and Recreation Board serve as the City Tree Board. The Tree Board has administrative duties over the urban forest, with the responsibility to develop a written plan for the care of trees.

Agenda Item 4 – ADOT Construction Update

Nancy gave an overview on the next phase of the ADOT 202 widening construction plan. In May a temporary path will be created off the existing multi-use path on the north bank of the lake east of Mill Avenue. The path will go down towards the lake at the old event ramp to meet an existing asphalt path which runs to the marina lagoon.

- 1) On Friday, May 8th at 6 pm College Avenue will be closed at the 202 overpass for freeway walls demolition and will reopen at 5 am Saturday, May 9th.
- 2) ADOT has agreed to design a special cage to go over the storm drains to catch the debris coming from the freeway into the LoPiano Habitat. The cage will have a fine mesh to catch the debris for easy removal. Tempe will be responsible for cleaning out the storm drains.

General discussion regarding the **ADOT Construction Update**, including:

- Sharon Doyle asked if the water upstream by McClintock Drive was considered part of a habitat. Nancy stated it began as an accidental wetland but is now considered a legally defined wetland by USACOE. The wetland area cannot be altered without permits from USACOE.

Agenda Item 5 – Hayden Ferry Lakeside Design Guidelines

Nancy reported the Hayden Ferry Lakeside design guidelines will be rescheduled for the May RSAC meeting because Randy Levin was unable to attend. Nancy stated these guidelines will help facilitate commonality in the design of Hayden Ferry Lakeside from Mill Avenue to Rural Road.

Agenda Item 6 - Committee Updates

- Friends of Rio Salado – Julie Ramsey reported there will be a Veterans Memorial Commencement Ceremony on May 25th in Tempe Beach Park from 5:45 pm to 7 pm. Nancy stated at the ceremony there will be a flag raising to commemorate the start of the Veterans Memorial project in Beach Park. The Tempe Veterans Foundation is a 501c3 organization doing the \$3M fundraising for the project.
- Ad Hoc Committee Tempe Papago Park Master Plan – Sharon announced the first Papago Park Regional Master Plan public workshop will be held on April 29, 2009 at 10 am to 12 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm. The public can attend either one of the workshops, go to www.discoverpapagopark.com to fill out an online survey, or have a survey mailed to them. There will be two more workshops on June 15 and August 20.
- Enhanced Services Commission – Nancy Ryan stated at the April 8th ESC meeting Charlotte Benson, COT Attorney, explained the Bridgestone settlement of the rubber dam bladders. Charlotte reported the dam warranty is expiring in June 2009, Bridgestone has agreed to

replace the four downstream bladders for a five year period at a \$1 per month rental fee. They will remove the rubber bladders after five years. Cofferdams will be used when replacing the rubber bladders and no water will be drained from the lake. The construction timeline is January 2010 to October 2010. The 5-year lease will start in December 2010. City staff will be finalizing a dam replacement during this five year period. The ESC also recommended the CFD 2009/2010 budget.

- Parks Board Commission – Nancy Ryan reported the Parks Board met on April 15th for a presentation on the Urban Forestry Study by the Dave Resource Group. The board also had a presentation on the Veterans Memorial project by David Lucier.

Sharon announced Sue Lofgren was named “International Volunteer of the Year” from Sister Cities International. She will be given an award in Belfast, Ireland on July 30, 2009. Tempe Sister Cities was also been named “Outstanding Sister City” for the International Sister Cities.

Agenda Item 7 – Project Updates

- 1) Nancy announced the upcoming meeting of the Tempe City Council, Mill and Lake District Committee on Thursday, May 7, 4:30 pm at Hatton Hall.
- 2) Rio Salado Management Plan Review meeting will be held tomorrow at noon in Rio Salado Conference room.
- 3) A pre-construction meeting will also be held tomorrow for the USACOE Habitat Phase III project at the Rio Salado Ops Center.
- 4) Rio Salado staff has made a list of projects for stimulus money from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The list includes Ash Avenue Abutment Restoration, Boathouse, bypass pumps, and park playgrounds.

The Committee’s next meeting will be **May 26**.

MOTION: Sue Lofgren moved to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: Alana Chavez

DECISION: Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM

Prepared by: Diane Johnson

Reviewed by: Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan
Rio Salado Manager