



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
April 10, 2009
Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona



Quorum having been established, Vice-Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioners present were Jan Johnson (Vice Chair), Anita Kellman (Secretary), Stephanie Maben, Gary Davidson and Victor Rivera. Commissioners absent were Richard Barker (Chair) and David Ridings.

Staff present: Rafael Payan, Derek Shaw, Joe Barr, Kerry Baldwin

Guests: Neva Connolly, Laurel Parker and Julia Fonseca from the Office of Science and Research; Bob Lutgendorf of Pima County Public Works CIP Unit; Rick Schonfeld, *et al.* from Wheat Scarf Associates.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C: Consent Agenda

Commissioner Johnson pointed out that she distributed bond material to the commissioners present and would like it reflected within the minutes. Please see correction under the natural resources division report (March 6, 2009 minutes).

(Recorder's note: The minutes subject to approval at the April 10, 2009 meeting was the wrong date on the agenda. The draft minutes of March 6, 2009 will be on the May 8, 2009 agenda for approval/ratification.)

D: Commission Discussion/Action Request

Mehl-Foothills Park Master Plan: Rick Schoenfeld of Wheat Scarf Associates made a presentation of phase one improvements at Mehl-Foothills Park. Phase one construction includes, but not limited to, improvement to the park's infrastructure such as realigning the entry road; repaving and installing additional light west parking area; constructing new lighted parking to the south of the maintenance building for the new dog parks; re-routing the parking lot drainage; constructing new rest rooms, snack bar, storage area; ADA compliant playground area; demolishing the existing guest house; upgrading the electrical/sewer system in the main house, fencing and gates on the north and west side. Phase one will also include baseball/softball sports complex in addition to the soccer field.

Pima County Regional Trail System Design: Neva Connolly reported on the progress of the effort to establish trails system design guidelines for native species for the reconciliation of habitat needs and trail design. She stated that the project design intends to facilitate native plant and animal diversity, water harvesting, erosion control and trail protection as well as educational opportunities. A guideline includes adequate food sources for birds and lizards. Laurel Parker and staff provided more information about the project.

E. Division Update Reports

Administrative Services: Mr. Shaw reviewed the status of the department's budget for period eight. He explained the revisions to the fee structure. The revised fee structure will be on the April 21, 2009 Board of Supervisors agenda for consideration.

In regard to the budget, Mr. Payan requested the commissioners to contact their district supervisors for possible reconsideration of the 20% budget cut required of the department. He explained the impact of the 20% reduction to the community, especially children's programs.

Recreation: Joe Barr expounded on the impact of the Arizona Department of Health (ADH) child care licensing requirements to the operation of the recreation programs at community centers. He mentioned receiving a complaint from the ADH in January 2009 regarding the programs offered at Robles Ranch Community Center that required a ten-calendar response from NRPR. As a corrective measure, recreation staffers developed strategies that will suit the AHD requirements such as (1) at-will program in which the parents/legal guardians stays on the premises during the two-hour session, (2) Get Active, which replaces the after-school programs, and (3) Stay Active, which replaces the summer programs. These three proposed programs included recommended fees that could offset operating costs prompting the revision of the fee structure. NRPR's recreation programs at community centers have been free-of-charge since 2004, at which time the agency was granted exemption from the ADH childcare licensing department. The AHD has subsequently reinterpreted the rules and determined that NRPR is no longer exempt. Mr. Payan clarified that the county administration directed staff to prepare a fee proposal for the revised childcare programs, with fee levels being such that they offset operating costs.

Development: On behalf of Carlo DiPilato, Mr. Payan gave a brief status report on the following capital improvement projects: Sportspark/Brandi Fenton Lighting, Thomas Jay Community Center, Hidalgo Park, Picture Rocks Skate Park, Robles Park and Meadowbrook basketball court. Arivaca School improvements will be included in the next meeting agenda.

Natural Resources: Kerry Baldwin expounded on the progress of the following natural resources programs: open space/ranch property management, invasive species/buffelgrass, open space acquisition, environmental education, and natural resources parks. Mr. Payan commended Mr. Baldwin for his leadership and staff/volunteer teamwork.

Operations: No report.

F, FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

It was suggested that "Old Business" be added as an agenda item in future meetings.

G. Call to the Public:

Mr. Payan explained that this agenda item is specifically and purposely for public participation.

H. Adjournment: Duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.