

**Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Parks & Recreation Sub-Committee
Meeting**

**Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
3500 W. River Road
Thursday, May 3, 2007
8:00 a.m.**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The following is a summary of the May 3, 2007 meeting. Audiotapes of the meeting are available upon request.

Committee Members Present

Gary Davidson, Chair
Byron Howard
Carolyn Campbell
Terri Hutts
Thomas Six
Tom Warne

County Staff: Technical Experts Present

Carlo DiPilato, P&D Division Manager
Lauren Harvey, Program Manager, NRPR

Committee Members Absent

John Neis

County Administration

Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator

1. Meeting began at 8:07 a.m. with a quorum.
2. Mr. Six made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on March 29, 2007, which was seconded by Mr. Howard. The motion was unanimously accepted.
3. Mr. DiPilato reviewed all the projects in District 3, including their scope. The following points were raised with regard to the urban fringe parkland acquisition project. Mr. DiPilato was asked whether the individual parcels could be further prioritized and whether a map could be provided showing the location of each parcel. Mr. DiPilato was also asked to explain the concept of the urban fringe park land, and questioned on the accuracy of the estimated cost of the land in 2009 dollar terms. Mr. DiPilato was also asked about the Santa Cruz River Park project and whether bank protection and stabilization was in place. Ms. Campbell explained that this was cross referenced with a Flood Control Project. Ms. Fyffe said she would research this as the Public Works sub-committee had completed their selections. Mr. DiPilato was also asked why there were so many sports field improvements and lighting projects. He explained that there was a great demand from the leagues and public for these projects.

Ms. Fyffe also informed the committee about the number of signatures in support of these projects that have been received. The committee also wanted to know why the Altar Valley Watershed Restoration Project was included with park projects and not in flood control. Mr. Baldwin explained that this was more of a restoration project rather than simply flood control and it will be managed by Natural Resources. Mr. Payan also reminded the committee that Natural Resources also does a lot of preservation, conservation, restoration including mountain site, riparian areas and cultural sites, and is not just a monolithic sports entity. Mr. Payan and Mr. DiPilato were also asked about the Roger Road Sports Complex. Mr. Payan explained that about 80% of the project consisting of the baseball, softball and soccer fields could be completed but the remaining was contingent on relocation of the Roger Road Treatment plant. For that reason he suggested that the project be in two phases, with the fields being put in first. Regarding the Ted Walker Park Sporting Dog Training Site questions were raised about community support. Mr. Payan told the committee that that information was being gathered and that it was growing sector of recreation. Regarding Robles Community Park, Mr. DiPilato was asked about the last time that this area of the county was served. Mr. DiPilato told them that the Three Points Veteran's Memorial was built with the 1986 Bond funds and this would be an addition to the school district property. It provides for allowing future development of associated community hub developments such as a library, community center and sports complex.

4. Jurisdictional comments about PC BOS District 3 projects:

Mr. Tom Ellis, Parks & Recreation Director of the Town of Marana spoke about the three projects on the sub-committee's list. Ellis said that the Heritage Park was extremely important to Marana, which is committed to the future while always remembering their past. It is also of regional benefit, serving as a gateway to the Santa Cruz National Heritage area. The BOR Sports Complex is listed at #2 of their top 10 projects. It is located on Avra Valley Road near the Marana airport and is 500 acres. The plan is to develop a regional sports complex with 18 soccer fields, 12 each softball and baseball fields, skate and BMX park with parking, concession facility, restrooms and related amenities. An equestrian center with both indoor and outdoor arenas, horse stalls and a trail head with access to the CAP trail system are also planned on this site. Mr. Ellis emphasized that when this is combined with sports complexes planned at Roger Road, Rillito, and Naranja, it would make Southern Arizona a mecca for sports tournaments. BOR has the ability to do a 50% match for developments. Also there are also plans for an amphitheatre for the 4th of July celebrations. Mr. Ellis said that the land does not have to be purchased and it is an easy site to develop, and though there are no utilities, this is an incredible opportunity that is not to be passed up. Mr. Ellis was asked whether reclaimed water could be used. However there is the option of using the CAP water allotment. However it has been decided not to irrigate with potable water but no final decision has been taken and the town is still looking into this matter. The site is very accessible both from the Tucson and Phoenix areas as well. Mr. Ellis was asked whether there were hotels in the area. He explained that there was land available, and that there is development in the area. The sub-committee also wanted more information on water usage. Mr. Ellis will provide that shortly.

Mr. Benny Young, City of Tucson Parks & Recreation: Mr. Young reminded the subcommittee that the city has approximately 400 million in unmet needs at present. Three of the four projects in District 3 are expansions of existing parks. The Amphi School district is one of the most underserved areas of the city, so the city is very supportive of projects in that area. The city is also working with the Amphi School district in moving a bus barn and converting it into a community park. Mr. Young explained that there is at least 50 million worth of unmet needs in this district alone. Mr. Young was also asked about developers including pocket parks in neighborhoods. He explained about the impact fees being presently collected and also that the city is developing a code regarding these matters. Mr.

Young was also asked about the demand for dog parks which is presently very high and whether the school districts would allow dogs on their fields.

5. Public comments about PC BOS District 3 projects

The following spoke in favor of retaining the Rillito Racetrack since there are no other horse racing facilities in the county, that the money would be better spent in repairing and maintaining the facility, and also the need to preserve historic structures in the area. Also this venue has also been used for a large variety of other activities :

Steve May

Pat White

Tim Kelly

Dr. Ramirez spoke in favor of a new racing facility which could be located at Pima County Fairgrounds.

The following spoke on behalf of Flowing Wells district projects

Dr. Nick Clements, Superintendent of the School district

Ellie Towne

Ebi Aldaghi spoke on behalf of the 18 field Rillito Sports Complex

The following spoke on behalf of the Altar Valley watershed restoration project emphasizing other funding that could be received from BLM, Army Corps, Flood Control, etc and that this would restore the riparian habitat, soil, stability and watershed function of almost 700,000 acres

Andrew McGibbon, area rancher, Chairman, Pima Natural Resources Conservation District

Pat King, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. Also spoke on behalf of the Robles Community Park.

Tom Sheridan, Community Representative Altar Valley Conservation Alliance

The following on behalf of the bicycle community in favor of the BOR sports park and increasing the bike paths and trails to reduce the number of fatalities

Roy Schoonover

Kaitlyn Meadows on behalf of the Picture Rocks Community

6. Other Business, Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates

The subcommittee would like a summation of all the school district projects and further information on the projects in Picture Rocks Districts. There was also a concern about the Rillito Race Track and Mr. Huckelberry's memo. However the subcommittee would need to make their decision based on their findings.

- Thursday, May 31, 2007 at NRPR from 8am – presentation of projects within BOS District 4
- Thursday, June 7, 2007 at NRPR from 8am – presentation of projects within BOS District 5 and "All Districts"
- Thursday, June 14, 2007 – TBD
- Thursday, June 21, 2007 - TBD

7. Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.