

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

**Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
3500 W. River Road
Thursday, May 31, 2007
8:00 a.m.**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The following is a summary of the May 31, 2007 meeting. Audiotapes of the meeting are available upon request.

Committee Members Present

Gary Davidson, Chair
John Neis
Terri Hutts
Thomas Six
Jaret Barr (for City of Tucson)

County Staff: Technical Experts Present

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

Committee Members Absent

Byron Howard
Carolyn Campbell
Tom Warne

County Administration

Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator

1. Meeting began at 8:05 a.m. with a quorum.
2. Ms. Hutts made a motion to approve, with corrections, the minutes of the last meeting held on May 3, 2007, which was seconded by Mr. Six. The motion was unanimously accepted.
3. Mr. DiPilato reviewed all the projects in District 4, including their scope. The following point was raised with regard to the projects concerning reclaimed water. Mr. Davidson inquired why these projects were included in the Parks Sub Committee. He was advised that these projects management responsibilities would eventually lie with Natural Resources, thus the projects were included. Also, some of these projects do not have water rights and reclaimed water would allow for re-vegetation of former farmland with native plants especially in riparian areas.
Mr. Davidson also wishes to know which projects were moved to the Parks & Recreation sub-committee and from which jurisdiction the projects belong to.
The project FC-46, Reclaimed water for Canoa Ranch, can be removed from the project list as it is included in the scope of project PR80 Canoa Ranch Historic Interpretive Center. The project PR241, Empire High School Community Pool and Civic Center, can also be removed from the project

list as it is included the Public Works Sub-committee project list. Mr. Neis also made an interesting observation that the lower a project's priority, the more criteria it apparently filled, which lead Mr. Davidson to remind the sub-committee that just because some project was prioritized as a B did not mean it was not a worthy project and that the committee would have to keep that in mind when making their decisions.

4. Jurisdictional comments about PC BOS District 4 projects:

Ms. Debby Summers, Parks & Recreation Director, Town of Sahuarita, introduced speakers on behalf of the Town – Mr. John Sullivan, Councilman, Mr. Ken Ventura, Project Manager, Mr. Dane Woll, President & CEO of Metro Tucson YMCA along with Anthony Wright of the YMCA's Program Development. Mr. Sullivan spoke about the Town's only project which is the Sahuarita Pool and Recreation Complex. The land has already been acquired by the Town. In 2004 the Town conducted its first survey and one of the highest rated needs was for a pool and recreational area. The Town went through a masterplanning process with plenty of community input which would include soccer fields and an aquatic and recreation complex. This part of the plan envisions both a competition pool in view of the high school being upgraded, and a recreational one as well with zero entry depth, splash park, Mr. Sullivan also said that it was clear that the public wanted indoor recreational facilities as well, and so a 30,000 foot multigenerational recreation center is being planned. The Town is growing extremely fast from 3,000 people to over 12,000 today, and is estimated to be 30,000 by 2012. This does not count the usage by people living in Green Valley who also make use of the Town's amenities. In 2006 the Town conducted another survey in which it found that the people wanted one multiuse facility with walking, jogging, aerobics and cardio facilities, arts, crafts and teen center space available. 85% of the Town feels that Parks & Recreation is critical for the well being of the town. There is strong support for this project from all sections of the community and the Town has forged a working relationship with the YMCA. Mr. Sullivan thanked the Sub-committee and was followed by Mr. Dane Woll of the YMCA who said that they had served 53,000 members and another 140,000 participants. The board of the Y is looking for ways to partner with fast growing communities to extend Y programs. Mr. Woll also said that the one time Bond funding would allow the operation of the facility over the next 50 years. As an example he offered the NW-YMCA project funded by the 1997 Bond with 16,000 participants and plenty of pool use. Because the costs are shared, the pool is open throughout the year. The Y funds equipment and replacement equipment costs, utilities, and other operating costs. Mr. Woll reiterated that this is a project that certainly merits consideration. Mr. Woll was asked whether this project too would be run along the same lines and he assured the sub-committee that that would be the case.

Ms. Sandra Stone, spoke on behalf of Green Valley projects and the Canoa Master Plan which is available online. She emphasized that this plan is very important to educate the public about the history of Southern Arizona and that there would be several economic benefits as well as this is located in the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Area. The plan has also been accepted by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Chuck Catino, President of BAJA Senior Sports Complex spoke of the need to fund this project on which they have been working on since 1996. There are no parks in Green Valley. The closest is in the Town of Sahuarita. BAJA Sports is a group of about 115 senior softball players. They hold national wide softball tournaments. This would be the only park in Green Valley, it would be maintained by both Parks & Recreation and BAJA as a team. The land which is 57 acres is being donated. There is also a 100'x100' parcel with a well belonging to FICCO who they are working with to have the parcel donated. That would allow Parks & Recreation to buy the water rights as well. Mr. Catino was also asked about whether the fields would need lighting. He said that there was no need for it at the moment, but Mr. Davidson said he would prefer if the plans had lighting subbed out. Mr.

Catino said this would allow the reclamation of a negatively impacted site which is a mine pit, attract state and nation wide senior softball tournaments year round. At present his group rents field from the City since the County does not have sufficient fields. The group brings 55 women's and 50 men's teams aged 55 and over, from across the country to play here.

Mr. David Harris, Replacement Chairman for BAJA spoke on behalf of the project as well saying that this would benefit not only Green Valley but Amado and Arivaca as well. He spoke of the team's volunteer umpiring over 150 little league teams and girls softball games in the past two months.

Mr. David Blouin spoke on behalf of the Canoa Preserve Development Partners and their donation of the land. They have completed a boundary survey, topo and aerial mapping, biological survey, environmental survey, initiated the project master plan and will complete the grading, drainage and hydrology. Any offsite upgrades to utilities will be done as well.

Mr. Fred Gray, Parks & Recreation, City of Tucson, said that Jesse Owens Park and Purple Heart are eligible for impact fees, which is not mentioned as they have not been collected as yet. Also, the Esmond Station Project at the SERP will probably have the name changed to Esmond Station so it is not confused with the County's Southeast Regional Park. The projects in District 4 total about 15 million dollars. About 20% of the city's unmet needs are within District 4. Also some of the city-wide projects are also here. Several smaller projects that were consolidated are also in the area. There are also some land acquisition and river parks in Ward 4.

Rosemary McCain, Vail School District has lived in Vail for 17 years and she has watched Vail start with one school with 500 students to 14 schools serving 9,000 students, with 3 more in the planning stage. Since Vail is still unincorporated, they have no town council and rely on the county and city to represent them along with a very active community and she urged the committee to consider their projects.

Mr. Tom Ellis, Parks & Recreation Director of the Town of Marana returned to speak about the water plans for the BOR park from the last meeting. Mr. Ellis reminded the sub-committee that the BOR park which will cover 500 acres and have 18 softball fields spread out over about 92 acres. The BOR park is a basin and accepts surface run off from the northern edge of the Tucson Mountains, also from a 2500 home subdivision is being developed. So roughly 1000 acre-feet of water runs through the area, and staff is looking to capture that runoff by building irrigation ponds and use it to supplement what would be untreated CAP water or irrigation water. The water that would not be used would be used to supplement the non-potable water for Marana to irrigate landscaping. Mr. Ellis believes that this would satisfy approximately 75% of the total turf needs, economically and would also be used in the community.

5. Public comments about PC BOS District 4 projects

Marty O'Shea, Deputy Administrator, Tanque Verde School District: Spoke in favor of the Emily Gray Junior High School, Tanque Verde and Agua Caliente Elementary Schools and the Lew Sorenson Community Center.

Patrick McKenna, who works for Supervisor Ray Carroll and wanted to thank the committee for the great job they are doing. Mr. McKenna explained that Supervisor Carroll takes a different approach

and asks for community input before making decisions on projects in his district. Also, the community is very vast, ranging from Tanque Verde in the North to Vail and Green Valley in the south.

6. Other Business, Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates

Mr. Davidson reminded the committee that the next meeting would be the last of reviewing projects and that the meeting following the committee will start deciding priorities. Also, the person representing each district should take the lead in prioritizing that district's projects. He thought the sub-committee would start with District 1 and continue and also have several tiers of priorities that would be more county wide after the first group. Mr. Davidson also requested a large map of each district which could be used at the meetings with removable markers that would show the locations as well. Mr. Davidson was also asked about how many projects may be funded and he explained that it would depend on the allocation of bond money received by Parks and that he expected at least 80% of the project to not get funding.

- Thursday, June 7, 2007 at NRPR from 8am – presentation of projects within BOS District 5 and "All Districts"
- Thursday, June 14, 2007 – Prioritization of Tier 1 projects
- Thursday, June 21, 2007 – Prioritization of Tier 2 projects

7. Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 a.m.