

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session at the Parks and Recreation office at 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on May 14, 2014.

Members Present:

Ron Wills (Chair)
Kent Bulkley
John Duclos
Jennifer Madsen
Wayne Manske
Bert Millett
Kathleen Rahn

Members Absent:

Milt Fort
Niki Tapia
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Tammy Davenport
Leslie Clark
Jo Donovan
Mark Gallo
Lacy Bienkowski
John Wesley, Planning Dir.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Ron Wills, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wills asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2014 Parks Board meeting. Kent Bulkley made a motion, John Duclos seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments - None

Report on Positive Play Project – Lacy Bienkowski

Mr. Mike Holste introduced Lacy Bienkowski, who is in charge of all youth sports programs; one of the things she has taken upon herself is to look for new ways to improve the coaching and has developed the Positive Play Project.

A grant was received for \$62,250 over a 3 year period from the Gila River Indian Community in April of 2013.

In addition, the program is supported by five local business', NextCare Urgent Care, ASU College of Health Solutions, A.T. Still University, Positive Coaching Alliance and East Valley Sports. Not only is this support beneficial for the City but it also assists the business with research to further their own endeavors, A. T. Still University uses the research on the type of injuries the players are sustaining. The ASU College of Health Solutions has attended different events to assist with first aid, as a training tool.

The Focus of the program is to provide high quality trainings, resources and outreach in areas including, sportsmanship, positive coaching, concussion awareness, injury prevention, equipment and safety gear access, hydration and nutrition, financial assistance and scholarships.

The program was put in place to be a multi-dimensional program to provide resources for all participants, including providing training for the volunteer coaches which Ms. Bienkowski felt was one of the areas that were lacking in the youth programs. Training was provided to ensure that the coaches were there for the right reasons, to be positive role models for the participants. Guest speakers were provided from the different partnerships, and equipment was provided so that each team had quality equipment. Also developed was a Positive Coach and a Positive Team Award to recognize coaches that were being positive, whether they were winning or not, and the parents chose the winners for both the coach and the team. The winners were publicly recognized with their names being put on plaques and the teams winning medals and awards.

The future of the Positive Play Project is in five areas which are developing, to increase outreach opportunities in the community; increase parent involvement; provide a Positive Play Project Summit, for coaches and parents to receive resources and information: provide mini workshop to do things such as; physicals, concussion testing, at a younger age; finally to secure long-term funding for the program after the grant is complete.

Ms. Bienkowski was asked how large her staff is by Mr. Wills, currently her full-time staff is just herself, but with her part-time staff, and volunteer coaches they number over one hundred. Mr. Bulkley asked how the staff is recruited; Ms. Bienkowski stated that currently her staff is mostly made up of ASU and Mesa Community College students. Ms. Kathleen Rahn asked how participants are notified of upcoming programming. Ms. Bienkowski answered that due to new policies within Mesa Public Schools on flyer distribution, it is currently a challenge, however emails, Facebook and word of mouth are some of the best ways.

Report on City of Mesa General Plan – John Wesley, Planning Director

Mr. John Wesley presented an overview on the City of Mesa General Plan which will be going before the Planning and Zoning on May 21st and then before Council on May 29th. There will be a public hearing on June 16th hopefully will be approved by the deadline of July 1st so it can go on the ballot in November.

Mr. Bulkley asked Mr. Wesley if the General Plan was mandated by the State Legislation, Mr. Wesley stated that it is mandated to be updated every ten years, to standardize Cities in how they plan their open areas and land use areas so that the Cities can each plan similarly while planning for the future. Mr. Bulkley asked if this current Plan looks back the previous plan to see if the direction the City is continuing to move is in line with past Plans, Mr. Wesley stated the first step in creating the current plan is to review the previous General Plan and ensure that things are reviewed by all areas to see what areas have worked for them and what has not worked for them.

Mr. Bulkley asked Mr. Heirshberg if the PRCF staff had gone through the plan and reviewed it, Mr. Heirshberg answered that when the past general plan was given to staff to review they found that it was very outdated. So PRCF staff created the Gold Medal 2025, 15 year strategic plan that took the guiding principles of several plans, parks, master plans and community surveys which are reviewed every year, and this plan was used as the template for several sections of the proposed General Plan. Mr. Bulkley then asked Ms. Rahn, who represents the Parks Advisory Board in the General Plan committee if she was comfortable with the proposed General Plan, Ms. Rahn stated that it fits very well with the PRCF Gold Medal 2025 plan. Mr. Wesley shared with the Advisory Board the three guiding principles of the General Plan which are: Creating and maintaining a variety of great neighborhoods; Growing and maintaining diverse and stable jobs; and Providing rich, high-quality public spaces and cultural resources.

Mr. Wesley asked for a recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of either the full General Plan or the areas that relate to Parks.

It was recommended by Mr. Bulkley that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board support the General Plan in the areas of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Wayne Manske seconded. Following Board discussion a friendly Amendment was then proposed by Mr. John Duclos that the Parks Advisory Board supports the components of the Draft General Plan that address Parks and Recreation components and are supportive of the Plans efforts to build Healthy Livable Communities. Mr. Bulkley accepted the friendly Amendment, and the motion was approved by a vote of 6-1.

Make a recommendation and take action on Naming of Parks.

Mr. Heirshberg addressed the Board and reminded them that the current Park Naming policy requires that any park names go to the Board for recommendation and then with the endorsement will go to the City Council Community and Cultural Development Committee for adoption. Currently there are four names that will be proposed for parks that are being developed:

- McKellips & Ellsworth Site – Desert Arroyo Park
- McDowell & Recker Site – Desert Trails Park
- Medina & Hawes Site – Mariposa Park
- 8th Avenue & Extension Site (former Powell Junior High grounds) – West Mesa Sports Complex

Mr. Manske asked if another name could be proposed for West Mesa Sports Complex, he felt that the neighborhood needed something vibrant to enhance the name of the park. Mr. Heirshberg stated that these names are staff recommendation and the Board was welcome to propose additional names or reject names.

Mr. Bulkley recommended that the Board endorse the names of:

- McKellips & Ellsworth Site – Desert Arroyo Park
- McDowell & Recker Site – Desert Trails Park
- Medina & Hawes Site – Mariposa Park

And give additional thought and suggestions for the 8th Avenue & Extension Site. It was seconded by Mr. Duclos. This motion was unanimously approved.

Director's Comments

Parks Bond Update:

- Mesa Jr. High Site Plan - There will be a meeting on May 15th at Lowell Elementary School from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Staff currently trying to address some issues so that the Gym can meet code for additional programming uses. The current site plan provides for two fenced soccer fields and walking trails with exercise equipment and a playground.
- Mesa Aquatics Complex - new pool at Mesa High: IGA was approved by Mesa Public Schools. The hope is to start construction over the summer.
- McKellips & Ellsworth Site: Construction will begin once school is out for the summer.
- McDowell & Recker: Bike Park Project, currently there are budget issues but with great partnerships with the biking community and they are willing to assist by volunteering their time to create some of the trails and assist with long term care.
- Downtown City Center – Urban Plaza Project: Is being awarded as a design competition to three urban planner and they will be in town holding public meetings the third week of

May. They will then take the ideas they receive and return at the end of the summer with the renderings and drawings for an additional public meeting.

Mr. Bulkley asked about the status of Buckhorn Baths, Mr. Heirshberg said that negotiations are still on-going.

Fees and Charges Update:

Fees and Charges were accepted by Council and went into effect April 1st.

Budget Update:

PRCF will be receiving a budget increase for the increasing costs of park maintenance contracts which recently expired and had to be re-bid. It is anticipated that the new contracts will have an increase of \$1.5 million dollars due to increased cost of employee insurance, fuel, equipment, maintenance.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Wayne Manske attended Celebrate Mesa.

Ms. Jennifer Madsen attended Double Play in the Park.

Ms. Kathleen Rahn attended Double Play in the Park, Mesa Leadership Meetings, the Park Build at Porter Park and a moonlight hike at Usery Park.

Mr. Kent Bulkley attended Double Play at the Park, Celebrate Mesa and golfed at Dobson Ranch Golf Course.

Mr. Bert Millet attended Double Play at the Park, Celebrate Mesa and the Grand Prix.

Mr. Ron Wills attended Celebrate Mesa and the Grand Prix.

Mr. Wills asked if there were any other items for discussion; the Board had no additional comments. Ms. Rahn made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Bulkley seconded, and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director