

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 September 10, 2014.

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Andrea Moore
Tammy Davenport
Leslie Clark
Jo Donovan

Members Absent:

Milt Fort
Josh Todd

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Ron Wills, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wills asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the May 14, 2014 Parks Board meeting. John Duclos made a motion, Kathleen Rahn seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments - None

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Election of Chair and Vice Chair FY 2014-15:

Mr. Wills opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Wayne Manske nominated Mr. Wills for Chair of the Parks Board, Kent Bulkley seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

Mr. Bulkley nominated Ms. Jennifer Madsen for Vice Chair of the Parks Board, Ms. Rahn seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

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 for adoption. Currently there are five names that will be proposed for parks that are being developed:

- 8th Avenue & Extension Conversion Site (former Powell Jr. High grounds) – Fiesta Sports Park
- Mesa Jr. High Conversion Site – Eagles Park
- Mesa Drive and Southern Pedestrian Greenspace – Fountain Plaza
- Mesa Drive and 10th Avenue Pedestrian Greenspace – Sagebrush Park
- Mesa Drive and Holmes Pedestrian Greenspace – City View Park

Mr. Bulkley recommended that the Board endorse the names as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Duclos. This motion was unanimously approved.

Report on status of Parks Bond Projects

Mr. Heirshberg asked Andrea Moore, Parks Development and Operations Administrator to update the Board on the status of the Parks Bond Projects. Currently 9 projects are under construction and 12 are in design. The multi-use fields north of the Riverview playground will be completed and will be open up for play this winter. Construction has begun at the Mesa High Aquatics Facility due to flooding certain areas will need to be re-graded. Mr. Wills asked if there will be heaters added to the pool, Mr. Heirshberg answered that the competition pool will be heated by funds provided by Mesa Public Schools. Completion is anticipated by summer 2015. A play structure has been donated to the Desert Arroyo Park and should be installed by the end of November. Desert Trails Park should be open by the beginning of November. Mesa City Center documents are online and can be reviewed. New playground renovations will be at Emerald, Pequeño, and Vista Monterey and should be completed by late fall.

Mr. Bulkley asked if an assessment had been completed at Riverview Park as to how the facilities are being accepted and used and what safety issues have noted. In particular Mr. Bulkley had a question regarding the safety of the rock wall play feature. Mr. Heirshberg stated that staff is always accessing and taking note of the use that is occurring, Riverview has quickly become the most popular park in Valley. Additional parking has been added on the south and north side of the park. Some of the playground equipment is showing signs of failures due to overuse and equipment failure, all of which has been or is being repaired. There have been no complaints that staff has heard regarding the climbing wall, there has been some issues with rock sliding on the ends, but this is being worked on with the contractor and a fix will be in place soon. All playground equipment is inspected and cleaned daily, so staff is constantly checking to ensure safety.

Director's Comments

Mr. Heirshberg discussed the retention basins in light of the September 8th storm. It was explained that each basin is designed a bit differently, some of them hold all the water from the neighborhood and some of them take in the water from the streets and some have outlets to drain and some drain naturally, some have pumps to assist with drainage. PRCF works closely with the City of Mesa Transportation department to ensure proper maintenance and inspection of the basins is completed to allow the proper drainage to occur. The basins did exactly what they were created for but due to the large amount of rain received in a short period the water had no place to go. From a PRCF standpoint staff will not know the extent of the damage until possibly next spring after going through a freeze and thaw.

Mr. Wills stated that he had spoken to several friends and business associates and they have asked him to pass on kudos to Parks staff for maintaining the parks and basins in the way they have so there was not more damage than did occur.

PRCF has been recognized as being a National Gold Medal Award Finalist from the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administrators and National Recreation of Parks Association and the National conference is the second week of October. The City's PRCF has won the gold medal 3 times in the past and we hope to add another.

Hohokam Stadium and Fitch Park continue to be on schedule the Oakland A's will be moving into Fitch in November.

Celebrate Mesa is October 18th at Red Mountain Soccer Complex.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Wayne Manske attended City Plaza Project planning meeting.

Mr. Mark Yarborough attended Fall Little League Games.

Mr. Bert Millet attended numerous swim team events. Mr. Millet passed around flyers for the Mesa Sprint Triathlon and asked the Board to volunteer again this year.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director