

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 9, 2015.

Members Present:

Kent Bulkley
John Duclos
Matthew Erickson
Jennifer Madsen
Wayne Manske
Bert Millett
Justin Murdock
Kathleen Rahn
Josh Todd

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Erik Ostlund
Andrea Moore
Tammy Davenport
Leslie Clark
Jo Donovan
Lisa Davis
Kaelee Wilson

Members Absent:

Jaime Glasser
Miquel Sosa

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Jennifer Madsen, Vice Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Madsen asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the May 13, 2015 Parks Board meeting. Kent Bulkley made a motion to approve with correction, Kathleen Rahn seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments - None

Introduction of new Parks Advisory Board Members

Matt Erickson, introduced himself, he has been a Mesa resident for the past 3 years, he is a school teacher at Rhodes Jr. High School. Jaime Glasser and Miguel Sosa were unable to attend this meeting.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Election of Chair and Vice Chair FY 2015-16:

Ms. Madsen opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Kent Bulkley nominated Ms. Madsen for Chair, Wayne Manske seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

Kathleen Rahn nominated Mr. Wayne Manske for Vice Chair, Bert Millett seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

Public hearing for a Verizon site PHO Autry on an existing ball field light in Gene Autry Park, 4125 E McKellips Rd.

Andrea Moore, Parks Planning and Operations Administrator, explained that there is a process to go through when cell towers are proposed in a park, which is different when they are proposing to be placed on other City properties. PRCF has a set of guidelines which was

approved by Council in 2004 which state that the proposal must come before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for recommendation before it goes through the remainder of the City process. Currently there are only 4 of the 200 plus cell sites located in City parks. Additionally the process ensures that the site will fit. Any revenue that is received from the cell tower remains in the Parks system to use for park improvements. Centerline Solutions representatives, Mr. Ashton Burns and Mr. Jeremy Underwood were present at the meeting and are working with Verizon to install a tower at Gene Autry Park, also City of Mesa Planning representatives, Ms. Lisa Davis and Ms. Kaelee Wilson were in attendance. Once the recommendation is made it will go forward to the Development Services Department for the remainder of the process.

The suggested location for this tower is on the northwest baseball outfield at Gene Autry. It will be placed at an approximate height of 40 feet on the existing 80 foot field light pole. The location is behind a block wall and behind the existing orange trees, and the proposed design of the equipment enclosure will match the other buildings that are currently on the site.

Staff recommendation is for approval of the site, meeting notices were sent out to properties within 300 feet of the park boundaries and no questions have been received. The only other request will be to do light testing on the field to ensure the same light conditions will still be in place along with restoration of the landscape.

Mr. Bulkley asked if Centerline Solutions was independent of Verizon. Mr. Burns from Centerline Solutions responded that they locate the areas for the towers and assist with taking the recommendation through the City process. Mr. Bulkley then asked what the term of the leases with Verizon were over which period of time Ms. Moore explained that currently there is no negotiated lease, at this time, staff is just looking for site approval.

Make recommendation and take action on Verizon site PHO Autry on an existing ball field light in Gene Autry Park, 4125 E McKellips Rd.

Mr. Bulkley recommended that the Board approve the staff recommendation to move forward with the Verizon Site PHO at Gene Autry Park, with the conditions discussed, to Planning and Development Services Department, Mr. Manske seconded and it was unanimously approved to move forward.

Director's Comments

Mr. Heirshberg thanked those Parks Advisory Board members that were in attendance at the Grand Opening of Desert Arroyo Park. The park dedication was held first thing in the morning so the students of Zaharis Elementary School could attend since they had been involved in the planning of the park.

For the second year in a row PRCF is a finalist for the NPRA Gold Medal Award which recognizes Parks and Recreation Departments across the country for excellence in Parks and Recreation Management, PRCF is one of four finalist for Class 1, which is for communities with populations of 400,000 and above, announcement will be next Tuesday morning.

Celebrate Mesa 2015 is October 17th at Red Mountain Soccer Complex, event continues to be a great success. If you do plan on attending, please let Jo know so a notification can be made if there will be a quorum present.

Mr. Heirshberg gave a 2012 Bond Update:

Buckhorn Baths – the City is no longer in negotiations to purchase.

Kleinman Park – the project scope has been scaled back at the request of the adjacent neighborhood.

Pioneer Park – some of the funds from the two projects above will be reallocated to assist with some of the additional costs for projects at Pioneer Park.

Federal Building/Museum Expansion – this project scope has expanded to add a new facade on the front of the building and additional exhibits.

Riverview Baseball Quad – due to continual high-level maintenance of these fields by the Cubs, it was determined not to move forward with the addition of lights.

Fiesta Sports Park – property has been acquired and mobilization should be started in January. Looking to have fields ready to play the following fall/winter.

Eagles Park – currently working through the programming phase to add a community center and activate the gym space and repurpose the locker rooms. Site planning is continuing for the ball fields and the community park.

Mr. Heirshberg mentioned that the Board may start to hear comments regarding a large multi-sport complex. Visit Mesa has spearheaded a study to look at what it would take to install a 26 to 30 field multi-sport complex and possibly an indoor field house. Two sites were looked at; the Citrus area right across the street from Gene Autry and the other is the undeveloped land east of the Red Mountain Center. The Red Mountain site appears to be the site that will be easier to work with, due to Falcon Field.

Arizona Forward is a large environmental movement organization in the Valley and this weekend Councilmember Luna and Richins will be representing the City, where Riverview Park is nominated for Park and Trail design.

Mr. Heirshberg asked if there was any objections to moving the November meeting from November 11th, Veteran's Day to November 18th. November meeting was approved to be moved to the 18th.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Bulkley attended the grand opening of the Mesa Aquatics Complex. Mr. Bulkley also wanted to mention the passing of Jim Gentry, managing partner at Dobson Ranch Golf Course. He complimented Erik Ostlund and the staff of Dobson Ranch Golf Course on the condition of the facilities, lakes and streams.

Mr. Bert Millett enjoyed using his annual Swim Pass, and invited the Board to volunteer for the Mesa Sprint Triathlon on October 10th. He will send out an information email to the Board.

Mr. Josh Todd attended some of the new park grand opening, along with the Broadway Recreation Center re-grand opening.

Mr. John Duclos has friends that love the new parks Desert Trails and Desert Arroyo.

Ms. Rahn volunteered for the Light Rail Grand Opening.

Mr. Wayne Manske attended the Light Rail Grand Opening.

Mr. Matt Erickson has a child involved in PRCF's adaptive programs and is looking forward to attending Camp Carley.

Mr. Justin Murdock visited several pools over the summer along with Riverview Park.

Ms. Jennifer Madsen attended the Mesa Aquatics Dedication.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director