

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 March 9, 2016.

Members Present:

John Duclos
Jaime Glasser
Sarah Johnston
Jennifer Madsen
Wayne Manske
Bert Millett
Justin Murdock
Josh Todd

Members Absent:

Kent Bulkley
Matt Erickson
Kathleen Rahn

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Michael Holste
Aimee Manis
Leslie Clark
Lane Gram
Erik Ostlund
Jacquie Gallo
Mark Gallo
Oscar Venegas
Tammy Davenport
Jo Donovan

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

Introduction of new Board Member, Sarah Johnston:

Sarah stated she is a Professor at A.T. Still University, a medical school in the East Valley. Originally from Oregon but has made Arizona her home for the last 10 years. She is excited to give back to Mesa.

Approval of Minutes

Jennifer Madsen, Chair, asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the January 13, 2016 Parks Board meeting. Jaime Glasser made a motion, John Duclos seconded, and with one abstain from Sarah Johnston, by majority vote the minutes were approved.

Public Comments: None

Presentation: Proposed Sports Complex by Visit Mesa

Boardmember Josh Todd gave an update on the proposed Sport Complex to be built in East Mesa. Pollock Economic Impact Firm was hired by Visit Mesa and they presented to Council their economic impact reports at the end of February. The report showed that the economic projections were even better than anticipated. Mr. Todd encouraged the other Boardmembers to reach out to Council with their support.

Marc Heirshberg stated that most of the discussion with the Council has been on having a Quality of Life sales tax for the November ballot but there are a number of competing interests including public safety and education initiatives. Mr. Heirshberg stated that one of the items included in this project and that the City lacks is indoor space for programming, this project would create one of the largest indoor rentable space in the City. Marc reiterated that Council needs to hear from the citizens and those that support this project.

From a financial standpoint, the City still has to Bond those funds, anywhere between \$4.5 to \$5-million-dollar annual payment and about \$2 million dollars to operate annually.

Council will need to decide by the end of June whether or not to place it on the November ballot.

Presentation: Parks and Recreation Adaptive Staff

Leslie Clark, Recreation Administrator, introduced the Adaptive Staff, Lane Gram, Recreation Supervisor, Jacquie Gallo and Oscar Venegas, Recreation Programmers.

Ms. Gram shared that the City of Mesa Adaptive Programs have great partnerships with Arizona Disabled Sports and Mesa Public Schools. Arizona Disabled Sports has full-time staff that have programs for people with physical or visual disabilities. This allows the City to focus programming on Team Mesa a program for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities. Mesa Public schools supports with transportation and school facilities, and some stipend coaches.

Mr. Venegas shared that the City of Mesa offers numerous opportunities throughout the year with over 1,100 participants. Over 90% of the participants are City of Mesa residents. Other programs that the City provides are Gold and Unified Basketball Leagues which allows for competitors to then move forward and participate in Special Olympics, Four Peaks Area swim meets, and Quad City Golf.

Ms. Gallo stated that another activity that the Adaptive program provides is the TGIF Social Club which allows individuals with intellectual disabilities ages 16 through adulthood to participate in activities such as karaoke, game nights, Diamondbacks games, laser tag, aquarium visits, dances and more.

Special Events are also held, such as California Adventure Trip to Disneyland; Camp Carley, a two-night trip to Show Low, Arizona; Camp Fiesta, a six-week summer day camp; and "You Look Marvelous" Fashion Show, which partners with the cities of Chandler, Mesa, Arizona Disabled Sports, and Kohl's Department store, one of the big highlights of the year.

Ms. Gram shared that the Desert Challenge Games is part a Grand Prix for international athletes, in 2015 there were 300 athletes from 20 different countries, and has really put Arizona Disabled Sports on the map. This year Mesa will be hosting it again, and will serve as a para-olympic qualifier for the Olympic trials.

Director's Comments

Mr. Heirshberg shared that currently there are three councilmembers that are terming out and the Mayor has to run for re-election, because of that there is uncertainty on what will items will be placed on the November ballot.

From the economy standpoint, March has become the best sales tax revenue month of the year due to Spring Training.

Budget forecasting for PRCF is approximately \$30 million this year and next year. PRCF did ask for some additional funding in the amount of \$100,000, to assist with some services that have been added at our Red Mountain Center, the expansion of our summer day camps, swim extension to extend pool season until school starts, and numerous special events. PRCF is tentatively scheduled to present their budget to the City Council on April 14th.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Murdock visited the Fountain Plaza.

Mr. Duclos attended Spring Training games and Day in the Diamond.

Ms. Glasser visited Riverview Park.

Mr. Todd attended Spring Training games.

Mr. Manske visited Red Mountain Park with Salk Elementary.

Ms. Madsen attended Day at the Diamond.

Ms. Madsen asked if there were any other items for discussion; the Board had no additional comments. Ms. Glasser made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Todd 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