

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, Bldg. #1, Mesa, on July 11, 2018.

Members Present:

Steve Crider
Jaime Glasser
Nycole Leyba
Jennifer Madsen
Jo Martin
Justin Murdock
Jo Martin

Staff Present:

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

Members Absent:

Matt Erickson
Kimberly Forest
Alicia Kracht
Trevor Hansen

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Jo Martin, Parks Advisory Board Vice Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Martin asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes of the special meeting of June 21, 2018. Jaime Glasser made a motion to approve, Steve Crider, seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Naming of Parks – Main & Allen and Main & Williams

Mr. Heirshberg introduced Andrea Moore. The Park Naming Procedures were provided to the Board. Ms. Moore explained the process, once the Board provides approval to move forward with the agreed upon names they will then be shared with Council who approve the park name through approval of the minutes of this meeting. Ms. Moore stated that there were two retention basins that are going in along Main Street as part of the lightrail expansion, When recommending names staff looked at the original housing plats around these two basins for name suggestions, the name of Lazona Park for the Main and Allen location is recommended, the Main and Williams location did not have a housing plat around it but there will be Acacia trees surrounding the retention basin, so the name Acacia Park is recommended.

Both sites are in construction now through Valley Metro's contract and will be turned over to the City of Mesa upon completion and opening. The openings are expected to occur sometime between Fall 2018 and Summer 2019. Valley Metro has shown both basin plans to the public through multiple neighborhood outreach efforts. In addition, Valley Metro included the staff naming recommendations in their weekly construction email updates on June 4 and June 8, 2018. This email blast goes to all interested parties along the light rail construction route. Only one comment was received asking if Acacia Park is a duplicate name for Mesa's park system, which it is not.

Main & Allen: For the location at Main Street & Allen, the 1.3-acre park parcel is located on the southwest corner in place of the former Sally Fabrics store. The park will feature a grassy stormwater basin, an enclosed power substation (TPSS) to support light rail and is directly adjacent to a shaded bus stop. The staff recommendation for naming the site as Lazona Park comes from the surrounding community's recorded plat name as La Zona as well as a nearby street called Lazona.

Main & Williams: The other location at Main Street & Williams is a 1.1-acre parcel located on the southwest corner in place of the former Village Inn restaurant. This park will feature a grassy stormwater basin. The staff recommendation for naming the site as Acacia Park comes from the predominant Acacia Trees that will be planted around the perimeter of the basin.

Justin Murdock asked for clarification of the spelling of the name Lazona, as to whether it would be Lazona or La Zona. The spelling will follow the plat and the street and be spelled Lazona.

Steve Crider ask Ms. Moore if the park would then be under the usual park rules with the same park hours, and Ms. Moore confirmed that it will.

Nycole Leyba asked for clarification as to why the Lazona was chosen over the street name Allen, Ms. Moore stated that it was due to the original housing plat in the area that was called Lazona.

Mr. Crider made the motion to approve the name Lazona Park, this was seconded by Mr. Murdock, and unanimously approved.

Mr. Murdock made the motion to approve the name Acacia Park, this was seconded by Ms. Leyba, and unanimously approved.

2018 Parks Bond Presentation

Mr. Heirshberg stated that at the July 2, 2018 Council meeting the Council did vote to call for an election for a Parks and Cultural Bond and a Public Safety Bond in addition to a 613 Charter Election, which the City is required to do when the City will spend more than \$1.5 million dollars on a sports and entertainment facility as well as an increase of the bed tax by an additional 1%. Those are in addition to the questions that are already on the ballot including a Home Rule Question, which is required to be approved every four years and the Public Safety sales tax.

Mr. Heirshberg reminded the Board that during the Strategic Plan process that one of the goals that was discussed was balancing needs with wants. The City went through the imagine Mesa process and that produced a lot of wants, and then throughout this process the list of projects was narrowed down and ultimately focused on the needs, which included athletic fields and dog parks.

Mr. Heirshberg and Ms. Moore presented a 2018 Parks Bond Project presentation that was provided to the City Council on July 2nd.

Director's Comments:

CAPRA Visit

Mr. Heirshberg stated that during the CAPRA visit, Section 2.4 which requires approval authority of our Strategic Master Plan was deemed unmet until the visitors had the final approval of the

minutes of the special meeting held on June 21, 2018, which has acquired this evening. Those minutes will be submitted to the visitation team and the CAPRA commission reviewers on the morning of the July 12th.

Update on Storm Damage from storm on July 9, 2018

Mr. Heirshberg shared with the Board that during the storm on July 9, 2018 several of the Parks and Recreation facilities were affected. Over 70 trees were down in the Cemetery, so the Cemetery has been closed for several days to remove those trees. The main hall in the Convention Center was flooded. The Broadway Recreation Center had a window blown out and it damaged the basketball court. At Skyline Aquatic Facility all but one of the shade canopies were damaged. At Stapley and Carson Aquatic Facilities the Funbrellas, were bent and broken. At Kino Aquatic Complex the shade canopy over the slide platform blew down. At Fitch Park a tree fell on a ramada. There are several parks with trees down and buildings throughout the City have leaks and damage to several doors. Mr. Heirshberg shared that staff has been stellar and has done whatever is necessary to get pools open for lessons, roofs checked, and parks cleaned so the public can return to those facilities.

Ms. Leyba asked about how the expenses were tracked for things such as storm damage, Mr. Heirshberg stated that the City is self-insured, and that time and materials and supplies are tracked, and the finance department will keep track of those figures, and the budget will be adjusted as necessary.

Ms. Glasser asked if there could be a motion to do something to thank the staff for their hard work during such emergency times, Ms. Leyba seconded, and it was unanimously carried, and a plan will be created for the September 12, 2018 meeting.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Jaime Glasser attended several City of Tempe parks, which are doing an Art Walk, hoping to get some ideas for the City of Mesa parks.

Jo Martin attending the Celebration of Freedom.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Crider, seconded by Ms. Glasser and the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director