



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Parks and Recreation Board Room
708 W Baseline Road, Suite 4
Mesa, AZ 85210**

PRESENT: Chair Nycole Leyba; Vice-Chair Claud Cluff; Board Members Troy Campbell; Kimberly Forest; Robert Ingram; Jo Martin; Jacob Martinez and Orchidia Peterson

ABSENT: Board Members Cindy Hayton, Brent Maldonado, and Amelia Romney

STAFF: Director Andrea Moore, Administrators Brandon Erno, Aimee Manis, and Luis Ruiz, Sr. Fiscal Analyst, Tammy Davenport, Management Assistant II, Haylie Smith and Board Liaison, Mary Beth Hollmann

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Leyba called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present as listed above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2022.

Chair Leyba called for a motion to approve the January 12, 2022, meeting minutes. It was moved by Board Member Martin and seconded by Board Member Forest to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2022.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES: Leyba – Cluff – Campbell – Forest – Ingram – Martin – Martinez

NAYES: None

UNAVAILABLE TO VOTE: Peterson

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public submitted comments.

5. NAMING OF PARK ON CENTER STREET

Director Moore opened the discussion by recommending the naming of a new park under construction at 2228 North Center Street (north of McKellips Road on the west side of Center Street) as Lehi Sports Park. She provided an overview of the process for naming a park.

Vice-chair Cluff asked if the City owned the parcel all the way to the freeway. Director Moore indicated that the City does own the entire parcel extending to the north to the freeway with the exception of the parcel with the house on the northern edge adjacent to the freeway.

Board Member Martin made a motion that was seconded by Board Member Campbell to recommend approval to City Council to name the new park under construction at 2228 North Center Street as Lehi Sports Park.

Board Member Ingram mentioned the Lehi neighborhood and asked if neighborhood names were a consideration when naming parks. Director Moore said yes, that is referenced in the policy attached to the report. She added that they do look at the community around the park to determine if it has a predominant name, as well as researching the plat name recorded with Maricopa County, adjacent streets, local landmarks, and even a few that have people's names, but that is rare given the evolution of a community's history.

Upon tabulation of the votes, it showed:

AYES: Leyba – Cluff – Campbell – Forest – Ingram – Martin – Martinez – Peterson

NAYES: None

6. DIVISION UPDATES – PLANNING AND OPERATIONS, RECREATION, AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES – BRANDON ERNO, AIMEE MANIS, AND LUIS RUIZ

Planning and Operations

Brandon Erno, Park Planning and Operations Administrator provided information on current development projects.

- Eastmark Park – still under construction with the end of April targeted for completion

Chair Leyba asked what the expansion entails and Mr. Erno said that there will be an expansion north of where the new softball fields are. He said that there will be more passive recreation, for example an Urban Fishing League and an elevated playground.

Board Member Martin asked where the site plan is. Director Moore indicated that because Brookfield is building it, the site plan is not on our website.

Board Member Peterson asked if there was a skate park and Mr. Erno said yes, but it will be owned and maintained by the HOA, although open to the public.

- Plaza at Mesa City Center – closer to re-opening, hopefully in June
- Skyline Pool replaster – taking down the facility next year to replaster the pools in the winter (November to March)

- Monterey Park expansion – still in design phase
- Red Mountain Park expansion – construction this month until September 2023
- Disc golf courses have been realigned

Chair Leyba asked if the park will still have access once the fences go up and Mr. Erno said yes, the main park will remain open, but the vacant area to the east will be shut down as well as a portion of the area to the west of the softball fields.

Board Member Martin asked if the disc golf was going to be relocated into the park and Director Moore said no and indicated where they were in the site plan. She stated that they will both remain open throughout construction.

- Mountain Vista Trail – still in design – hopefully summer 2022 to begin
- Rhodes Pool replaster is complete
- Reed Park Playground improvements – targeting summer of 2023 for completion

Recreation

Aimee Manis, Recreation Administrator, provided an overview of the highlights for all the recreation programs.

- Adaptive
 - Sweetheart dance, hiking, User Park with the Park Rangers
 - Basketball, volleyball, archery, bowling, cheerleading and a snow adventure skiing with Northern Arizona Adaptive sports
 - Arts and culture program
 - Coloring and Yoga with cats
 - Track and Field events
- Aquatics
 - Lifeguard training, courses and recruitment for summer
 - New party room at Rhodes available when renting the Flowrider or by itself
- Athletics
 - Baseball and soccer rentals
 - First all commers track meet at Fiesta Sports Complex
 - Mesa Tennis and Pickleball Center is very busy
 - Softball and baseball
- Parks Rangers
 - Working with AZ Game and Fish to create fish habitats for Eastmark Park
 - Staff did two high enforcement Co-Ops with police at Pioneer Park
 - Attendance at the Parks Law Enforcement Association conference
 - Ride along with Mesa Leadership Academy
- Recreation Centers
 - Spring break camps
 - After school program very well attended
 - Fitness & Wellness classes at Red Mountain Recreation Center
- Youth Programs
 - Fun N Fitness doing 5 days a week in 5 schools
 - Purchase of trailer to expand Fun N Fitness with a grant
 - Summer camp recruitment underway

- Special Events
 - Supported Asian District event
 - Mesa Marathon
 - Celebrate Mesa is coming April 9 from 10 to 4 PM
 - \$15,000 in sponsorships
 - 18 department booths
 - 20 vendors

Director Moore mentioned that the Foundation would like to ask Board Members to help sell wrist bands. Haylie Smith will provide the Sign-Up Genius link if you are interested. Board Member Campbell asked if there were shifts and Director Moore said yes. Board Member Ingram asked where the event was and how many people are expected. Ms. Manis said that it is at Pioneer Park during the day and about 5-8,000 people. Board Member Martin indicated that there is an Earth Day component, and it is a great event.

- Front Desk
 - Summer Recreation guide is coming out and registration starts April 18
 - Mesa Recreation Scholarships began advertising in January – a 50% reduction in fees based on need/location

Board Member Martin asked if the funds were from the City of Mesa and Ms. Manis said that these are funds from ARPA. They also have scholarships with the City if there is a greater financial assistance need (i.e., Making Waves).

- Volunteers
 - Updates to our Teen Leadership Program is complete with a greater focus on the job training and skill building.
 - Two interns currently at PRCF
 - Adaptive
 - GIS

Board Member Martin asked about the incentives involved with new hires. Ms. Manis indicated the following incentives:

- Raised the payrate at the beginning of the year (3-year plan to have lowest employee at \$15)
- Incentive Program
 - Lifeguards – the Lifeguard Training/Instructor class cost of up to \$200 is reimbursed if they get a job with us
 - New Hire – if they get a job with us and do a good job in first season, they get \$500
 - Recruitment referral for current part-time staff - \$250 per person for every person that they refer, up to \$1,000.

Commercial Operations

Luis Ruiz, Commercial Facilities Administrator, provided an overview of the highlights for Commercial Facilities.

Cemetery

- Expansion project will be complete by June 2022
- Interments in January were 90, February were 68 - up from 25 to 30 interments in 2021

Dobson Ranch Golf Course

- Paradigm continues outreach with clinics and offering free golf clubs to foster/group homes in area to train high school students. Working to create more robust golf programs.
- Many improvements have been made on the Driving range. There were 10 top golf stations and they increasing with 15 more.
- Food/beverage sales are up significantly.

Board Member Martin asked if they serve alcohol and Mr. Ruiz said yes. Chair Leyba asked where the top golf stations are and Mr. Ruiz said right outside of the pro-shop.

Convention Center

- Staying busy booking into 2023 and 2024.
- Cat and reptile shows
- Hosting events
- Upgrading some finishes inside/outside
 - HVAC
 - Paneling one of the ballrooms
 - Flooring
 - Installations end of May early June
- GMP awarded for The Post (McDonald and Pepper Streets)
 - Started demo
 - Started branding/marketing efforts and plan to attend a bridal show in June
 - Office space in the building will be shared with Downtown Mesa Staff

Amphitheatre

- Very busy with 23 concerts on the books for this Fiscal Year
- Several concerts are sold out
- Grant from the Federal Government for shuttered venues during COVID is about \$1.8 million. Through the grant, we are sharing expenses with promoters and using funds for upgrades.

7. DIRECTOR UPDATE – ANDREA MOORE

- Master Plan Update
 - Is still behind schedule but next week will post the public survey results on the Footprint Future Mesa website.
 - There were 2,400 responses
 - She encouraged Board Members to review the results and subscribe to the website to receive regular updates.
 - Will spend the May Parks and Recreation Board meeting on the Master Plan to get feedback.

- Recruitment
 - There have been around 25 vacancies across the department for over a year
 - Facilities
 - Parks Maintenance
 - Seasonal summer positions
 - Postings on all our social media outlets are going out regularly
 - Haylie will be starting a series of Facebook Lives to highlight the different areas where we are hiring

8. Reports of meetings or events attended

- Board Member Martin discussed the process to become a lifeguard for anyone that might be interested. She discussed our seasonal employee, Mr. Hire, who is also a teacher and how he has challenged his students to not only become lifeguards, but also swim instructors. She said that the encouraging emails that come from the City are helpful because applying for your first job at the City can be intimidating.

Board Member Campbell asked about the age limits and Ms. Manis said that they have to be 15 to be a Lifeguard and 16 to be a Swim Instructor. Recreation Center staff have to be 16.

Board Member Peterson asked about the Volunteer program and Ms. Manis said that there are several different volunteer programs, but for example, the TLT program volunteers can be as young as 13 and Jr. Lifeguards can be from 13 to 16. They are looking at implementing a pre-Junior Lifeguard class for tweens (11 to 13).

- Vice-Chair Cluff volunteered for two shifts at the Finish Line for the Mesa Marathon.

Board Member Peterson said that the group that partners with the City to put on the marathon is amazing because it is a lot of work.

- Chair Leyba said she went to the MLK event, which was well attended. She also went to the City's Natural History museum, the Eisenhower Elementary soccer tournament, the 65th Anniversary at Lowell Elementary and the International Women's Day celebration at the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to celebrate women.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 11, 2022.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Leyba asked if there were any other items for discussion; the Board had no additional comments or discussion. Chair Leyba called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Board Member Peterson and seconded by Board Member Ingram to adjourn.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Campbell – Cluff – Forest – Ingram – Leyba – Maldonado – Martin – Martinez – Peterson

NAYS – None

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" and last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

Andrea Moore, Director, CPRE
PRCF Department Director

