

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 September 13, 2017.

Members Present:

Steven Crider
Matt Erickson
Sarah Everman
Jaime Glasser
Trevor Hansen
Nycole Leyba
Jo Martin
Justin Murdock
Josh Todd

Members Absent:

Alicia Kracht

Staff Present:

Marc Heirshberg
Mike Holste
Erik Ostlund
Aimee Manis
Leslie Clark
Jo Donovan
Lane Gram
Tammy Davenport

Also in Attendance

Paul Hawkins, City
Prosecutor's Office

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Murdock asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the January 11, 2017 Parks Board meeting and minutes from the Special Meetings held on February 1, 2017 and April 24, 2017. Matt Erickson made a motion to approve, Jo Martin seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments - None

Introduction of new Parks Advisory Board Member – Nycole Leyba

Ms. Leyba introduced herself, and stated she was a mom, wife and a runner. She is a contributing writer for Huffington Post. She cares about the City she raises her children in and wants to contribute as much as she can.

Recognition of Parks Advisory Board Member Matt Erickson – Mike Holste

Mr. Mike Holste stated that on August 9, 2017 the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association conducted their annual conference. At that conference, they award all the top and this year the City of Mesa Parks and Recreation was awarded first place for the Best Adaptive Program. Mr. Holste recognized Matt Erickson, Parks Board Member, Lane Gram, Recreation Supervisor and Jacquie Gallo, Recreation Programmer. Mr. Matt Erickson shared that he is the drama teacher at Red Mountain High School and for the last two years has partnered with the City of Mesa PRCF Adaptive program and put on a musical, where they partner a student with an adaptive student and perform. The program is incredibly popular not only for the adaptive participants, but also for the students. Mr. Heirshberg invited the Parks Board Members to get involved with the program, Mr. Erickson agreed that help is always needed.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Election of Chair and Vice Chair FY 2017-18:

Mr. Murdock opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Josh Todd nominated Matt Erickson for Chair, Steven Crider seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

Justin Murdock nominated Josh Todd for Vice Chair, Sarah Everman seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve.

Hear a presentation on the City's digital community engagement campaign, Imagine Mesa – Paul Hawkins

Mr. Heirshberg introduced Paul Hawkins, City Prosecutor who is an Imagine Mesa ambassador. Mr. Paul Hawkins shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Parks Advisory Board. Ms. Leyba asked Mr. Hawkins if there was any discussion on extending the deadline for Imagine Mesa. Mr. Hawkins shared that at this time an extension had not been discussed. Mr. Heirshberg explained that once the campaign is complete the Imagine Mesa steering committee will then create sub-committees. Currently staff is providing responses to some of the ideas that have been suggested. The subcommittees will then work with the appropriate Departments to see if the idea is feasible. The Committee will go back to Council with those ideas and it will be determined which items will go forward, and what it will take to implement.

Make recommendation and take action on the Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Purpose Statement:

Mr. Heirshberg stated that staff have been working throughout the summer months on the Strategic Plan. Staff took all the feedback that was provided from staff, the advisory board, community partners, and stakeholders to create a new Purpose Statement. Mr. Heirshberg shared all three of the proposed Purpose Statements with the Board, and shared that one Purpose Statement is being proposed as the Purpose Statement for the Department and asked for adoption by the Parks Advisory Board.

Ms. Jaime Glasser made a motion to adopt the proposed Purpose Statement:

Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities contributes to a healthy and vibrant community by providing exceptional experiences and services to those who live, work and play in Mesa.

- We are committed to:
 - Being responsible stewards of parklands, facilities and finances, and transparent in how we manage these resources.
 - Providing safe spaces and places for people to enjoy and recreate.
 - Working together to focus on services that meet the ever changing needs of our Community.

Mr. Justin Murdock seconded, and it was unanimously carried that the Board recommend that PRCF take the Purpose Statement to City Council.

Director's Comments

Mr. Heirshberg shared an update on the Strategic Plan. Mr. Heirshberg shared that he had just received the summary of the Strategic Plan Survey that was sent to 2,000 households in Mesa. The response rate was lower than anticipated at 8%. 8 out of 10 respondents felt that PRCF was doing good or excellent on services that PRCF provides. A condensed version of the Survey is also available on the City of Mesa PRCF website and will be going out through social media.

Next steps for the Strategic Plan; Supervisors have been working with their work group to establish action plans, then the executive team and consultant will create a Plan based on staff's input that will be implemented over the next 5 years. The final plan will be brought back to the Parks Advisory Board in November, then to Council for approval.

Mr. Heirshberg reminded the Advisory Board that they are the voice for the Parks, and if they here of any questions while out with the public, he would be happy to address them. Mr. Heirshberg appreciates that the Advisory Board is very involved in the community and is thankful for their help ensuring that the proper information is being given.

Mr. Heirshberg gave an update on the 2012 Bond Projects. Eagles Community Center grand opening is October 14th, remodel of Mesa Jr. High into a community center and multipurpose space. The second phase will be multiuse fields. This is the only City controlled indoor recreation space west of Gilbert Road. Pioneer Park is currently under construction. The rock grotto has been scaled down and cleaned up and is looking nice. The restroom building is getting a new look. The plumbing for the splash pad is going in. The elevated walkway that will connect the playgrounds is going up. Playground equipment is scheduled to ship by end of October. Greenfield Park grand opening will be November 4th. Signal Butte and Elliott park and trail connections construction will begin in 2018.

The Advisory Board was presented with the 2016/2017 Annual Report.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

No reports on meetings and/or events.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jo Martin, seconded by Trevor Hansen and the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Heirshberg, CPRE
PRCF Department Director