

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013
SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Fall
Charles Hammersley
Gregory Kleiner
Emily Outhwaite
Brian Young

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Drummond
Shauna Fisher
Brian Grube
Michael O'Connor
Steve Zimmerman

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Frankel
John Rodgen
(37 citizens who were
present to support
the Renaming of
Mountain View Park)
A list of all of the
individual's names in
the official file

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dulcie Ambrose
Denise Burley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Young called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Fall, Hammersley, Kleiner, Outhwaite and Young were present for roll call. Commissioners Ambrose and Burley were absent.

3. APPROVAL OF December 19, 2012 MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to approve the December 19, 2012 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kleiner. Motion passed with unanimous approval (5 yeas votes).

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – No Public Participation occurred.

5. PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. RECREATION SERVICES USER AND PROGRAM FEES. Recreation Services Director Grube presented this item in a Power Point format. He stated that Council has been discussing User Fees options for quite some time, and this information was presented to them in early January. He reported that staff hopes to get more specific direction from them some time in early February. The PowerPoint presentation included:

- An overview of the current user fees and policies
- The Recreation Services Mission statement
- The different levels of cost recovery, with some specific examples offered
- Changes that have occurred in recent years
- Guidelines to the different types of Recreation and Park Fees
- Some examples of specific programs and how the fees were set

He also asked the Commission to think about how the City could generate an additional \$100k in revenue from Parks and Recreation fees and questioned if there is a need for a formal user fee study. Commissioner Hammersley asked Director Grube if he could send the Parks and Recreation User Fees and Policies to Commissioners in electronic format via e-mail. He stated that he would like to see some data that breaks out the fees in a per unit cost. He felt that may lend support and insight on how to proceed.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RENAMING MOUNTAIN VIEW PARK. Tony and Kelly Cullen, children of the late James Cullen, asked the Commission to consider making a recommendation to City Council to rename the Mountain View Park to the James Cullen Memorial Park. There were 37 citizens present to support the recommendation, of which seven of them (Joe Ray, Ervin Boven, Ken Stanley, Billy Weldon, Kent Powell, Edward Leviness, and Joe Farnsworth) gave personal testimony of Mr. Cullen's generosity in helping children and families and his accomplishments which included:

- Involvement in the Toys for Tots and other children based charities
- Member of Flagstaff Marine League Charities Veteran's Welfare Program
- Supported Purple Heart Chapter 793
- Supported Sunnyside Neighborhood Association of Flagstaff
 - Paid for children to attend the Spring Break program
 - Paid for dental and medical services for underprivileged children
 - Wood for Warmth Program
 - Helped provide winter jackets to children
 - Sponsored and supported various youth sports programs
- Awarded Chapel of the Four Chaplain's Legion of Honor Award in 2005

A motion was made by Commissioner Hammersley to approve the recommendation to City Council to change the name of Mountain View Park to Jim Cullen Memorial Park. Commissioner Kleiner seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval (5 yeas votes). Parks Supervisor Zimmerman reported that it is the City's policy that the family is responsible for costs associated with changing the signs in the park

7. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

A. AQUAPLEX ART PROJECT. Mike Frankel, Executive Director of the Artist's Coalition of Flagstaff gave a brief history of the Recycled Art Show which is co-sponsored by the City of Flagstaff and Flagstaff Cultural Partners. The show is held annually and entering its 11th year. This year's event will be held on April 13. To commemorate the second decade of the show he has designed a public art project and is partnering with John Rodgen, who was also present, to build the sculpture. He also reported that they have presented the project to the Beautification Commission and have received their approval for the project. Mr. Frankel is requesting that the City pay for the materials and labor to have the concrete poured for the base of the sculpture.

They will be using recycled materials, at no cost to the City, to create a self powered wind propelled flying eyeball kaleidoscope. They feel the eyeball is visionary, in looking at the past by using recycled materials. They feel the sculpture would be completely self-contained, needing very little if any maintenance and able to withstand all the elements of the weather. They feel that the City's liability would be very minimal, with limited possibility of anyone getting hurt. Mr. Rodgen has the knowledge of kaleidoscopes and their functionality. The wings would be constructed from horseshoes and the glass would be donated from a local artist in town.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Commissioner Kleiner stated the current art work displayed in the City is symbolic of historical Flagstaff, he doesn't see the symbolism of this project as part of Flagstaff. He feels this piece could be a visionary piece perhaps in coordination with Lowell Observatory. Commissioner Hammersley stated that where they want to place the art is a high wind corridor and asked about materials that would be used in making the piece. Mr. Frankel reported that the eyeball would be a 1946, 250 gallon propane tank. The entire tank would be cut so the eye could be placed into the tank, creating the lens for the eye. There would be a protruding vertical shaft spinning that would go to a gear box to lower the speed, which would make the object's wheel turn slowly.

Commissioner Hammersley expressed his concerns that kids would be climbing on the structure and hanging from the wind vane as well as problems of vandalism, that could run in the thousands of dollars to repair. He wouldn't like to see the art removed shortly after it is installed because of vandalism. He feels that as the majority of people are coming from the parking lot, perhaps the other end may be a better location so staff could monitor the structure. Recreation Services Director Grube reported that other potential spots were explored and staff felt the location selected was a better place as the benches are used often. He feels that as the structure would be made of heavy steel kids wouldn't be able to climb on it.

Commissioner Outhwaite expressed her concerns about vandalism and if the structure would be a target for vandalism as well as who would be responsible for fixing and maintaining the structure. Recreation Services Director Grube reported that what vandalism has occurred at the Aquaplex has been at the other side of the building. He feels the area selected is a high traffic area which hasn't received any vandalism.

Commissioner Young asked the artists if they had considered making a smaller scale version of the structure. He stated he has reservations of the horseshoe wings and feel they would invite scaling and climbing by children. He stated the item presented is a drawing and rendering which looks like a kaleidoscope, but he is worried about temperature gauges, wind vanes, and children. He feels that sometimes there is a difference between the conception and the end product, which may be the case in this project. Mr. Frankel reported that they hadn't planned on making a model because they currently have the basic materials on hand and were just going to see how it goes together. He stated it is also sometimes difficult to engineer mechanics on a smaller scale.

Commissioner Hammersley stated that typically the process is for an artistic piece to be created and then a location is decided upon, but this project seems to be the opposite. He feels that assembling the piece at one location and moving it to another could present problems. He suggested that the Commissioners consider taking a field trip to look at all the recycled pieces and materials before committing to the project.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Mr. Frankel stated that he was surprised that the P&R Commission had so many reservations about the project; he thought of the piece as an ongoing process, as the Beautification Commission had approved it without reservations. It was Karl Eberhard, Liaison to the Beautification Commission, who suggested the Aquaplex location. Mr. Rodgen agreed that maybe they should finish the piece and have the P&R Commission look at and then they could make a recommendation about installing it at the Aquaplex. Commissioner Hammersley stated that the piece looks interesting, but he wonders if it is really a good fit for the Aquaplex.

Parks Supervisor Zimmerman asked what the maintenance for this art work would entail. Mr. Rodgen stated that he hasn't decided whether it would be belt driven or gear driven with bearings, but either way the parts aren't going to work hard. Commissioner Hammersley stated his concern that if a rock was thrown through the lens it would break it. He stated that each month the Parks Department reports on the vandalism and the sophisticated level of vandalism in the parks. He requested that the artists speak directly with Parks Supervisor Zimmerman and bring this item back to the Commission at another time.

Commissioner Kleiner stated that they are going to put a lot of time into the project but he doesn't see it as an art project for Parks and Recreation. Commissioner Hammersley suggested that there maybe room at other locations, perhaps inside for a piece like this. He feels the piece could be destroyed in one year's time by vandalism and outside weather. Commissioner Young suggested that perhaps the Library would be a suitable location where it could be protected from both weather and vandalism.

Recreation Services Director Grube stated that Mr. Eberhard reached out to staff and they met for an hour and voiced all the concerns mentioned today. He feels the average age of the youth visiting the Aquaplex is between 12-14, and that an interactive art piece would be an interesting addition. He used the Mountain Lion pieces as an example and to his knowledge they have experienced little to no vandalism. Parks Supervisor Zimmerman confirmed that vandalism to those pieces have been minimal. He suggested that an agreement be written up as the Parks Department tries to stay away from maintaining art work. Recreation Services Director Grube stated that he is confident that the artwork would be something the community would want, but it may need to be redirected to another location. Commissioner Hammersley suggested that they may want to present the concept to the County Parks and Recreation Commission as they may want to look at it for Sawmill Park, which has several art pieces installed.

B. CREATE AND PRIORITIZE 2013 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION GOALS.

Commissioner Hammersley suggested that they wait until implementation of the Master Plan. He stated he doesn't agree with all the recommendations in the Plan, but it has pointed out a priority for a park on the west side. He also feels continuing to address snow play needs and fee policy review would be appropriate. Commissioner Young stated that he agrees with both snow play needs and a west side park.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

C. POTENTIAL USE FOR UNUSED 1996 BOND FUNDS.

Commissioner Hammersley stated that he would like to look at the P&R Capital List as well as identifying what City properties are available on the west side. Parks Supervisor Zimmerman reported that some of the available funds would be the source of income for the Bushmaster Park improvements, depending on what comes out of that Focus Group. Commissioner Hammersley stated he would recommend getting a new park versus improving a park. Parks Supervisor Zimmerman also stated that some of those funds could also be directed towards funding a tennis facility, if an agreement could be reach with NAU and the Tennis Club. He feels that based on the Bond language, there may be some limitations as to how the money could be spent.

D. MASTER PLAN UPDATE. Recreation Services Director Grube stated that he reviewed the Financial Chapter of the Master Plan with Council on January 8. It is scheduled for final adoption on February 5. The following items were discussed during the presentation:

- Creating a reinvestment fund for replacement and renovation of facilities
- Pursuing public-private partnerships
- Revising the CIP list to match financial projects in the plan
- Increasing Parks Maintenance funds to maintain parks at a service level 2
- Ensuring adequate compensation to the Parks Department, either in cash or in kind for land traded or otherwise repurposed
- Augmenting portions of future Parks and Recreation Capital projects with BBB revenues as they continue to improve

Parks Supervisor Zimmerman stated that the City has approximately \$110,000 they could use to leverage grants for Parks and Recreation, but additional funds for the FUTS would need to be on a bond measure.

E. INDOOR TENNIS UPDATE.

Recreation Services Director Grube stated the he would be meeting next week to discuss negotiations with NAU and a private individual.

F. THORPE PARK DISC GOLF UPDATE.

Parks Supervisor Zimmerman stated that he didn't have anything new to report. He requested that this item be removed from the agenda as a standing item until Mr. Kirby is able to present more information to him.

G. THORPE PARK DOG PARK UPDATE.

Parks Supervisor Zimmerman stated that he hasn't been able to contact anyone, but an internal plan has been developed for improvements at a cost not to exceed \$21,000.

8. REPORTS

- A. OPEN SPACES COMMISSION UPDATE. Commissioner Fall stated that he didn't have anything new to report except that the Open Spaces Commission is looking at possibly acquiring some property on Observatory Mesa.
- B. MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS OF PARKS AND RECREATION. Parks Supervisor Zimmerman stated that he didn't have anything new to add to his report, which was included in the packet. Recreation Services Director Grube reported that some minor vandalism has happened at the Aquaplex, and security cameras will be installed outside, as well as staff looking into increasing the lighting on that section of the building. Staff is gearing up for the Dew Downtown Event which is scheduled for February 9 and 10. Commissioner Hammersley reported that he has volunteered for the Dew event and appreciates the amazing amount of work contributed from the City, the private sector, and the Snowbowl in producing the event. Recreation Services Director Grube stated that staff is enhancing what they did last year and adding a festival component at Heritage Square.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF.

Recreation Services Director Grube stated that City Management is unsure of what will they will be doing with the Community Enrichment Services Director position recently left vacant by Elizabeth Anderson. He reported that it is possible that a Division restructuring could occur. In the interim he and Heidi Holland, Library Services Director have been promoted to acting Division Heads. Commissioner Hammersley asked that at the next meeting the Commission consider making a formal recommendation to the City Manager, asking that the City move forward in conducting a national search to find someone for that position.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 28, 2013 MEETING

- Consideration of Formal Recommendation to City Manager Regarding the Community Enrichment Services Director position
- Master Plan Update
- Bushmaster Park Safety Issues
- Indoor Tennis Update
- Jakes Little Brother (JLB) Project

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.