

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Denise Burley  
John Fall  
Jessica Fitchett  
Charles Hammersley  
Gregory Kleiner  
Thomas Ziegler

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Alexis Alonzo

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christopher Hughes

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Burley at 4:01 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Burley, Fall, Fitchett, Hammersley, Kleiner, and Ziegler were present for roll call. Commissioner Hughes was absent.

3. **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 21, 2013 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to approve the August 21, 2013 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kleiner. Motion passed with unanimous approval (6) yea votes.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Alexis Alonzo, Vice President of Impact Boxing, Inc., a non-profit boxing gym and fitness center in Flagstaff made a short presentation. The gym focuses on the kids who live in the Sunnyside Community, offering diverse discipline, including academic programs in trying to discourage them from using drugs and alcohol, and getting involved in gang related activities. They currently hold a 501(c)(3) non-profit status and share space with Monster Fit Gym located at 2233 W. Seventh Avenue. They are looking for a permanent location in the Sunnyside area. The program has been in operation for approximately 15 years and they currently serve about 15-20 youth at a cost of about \$1,400 per month. Most participants are not able to pay monthly fees so they hold fundraisers to help support the program. It was suggested that Mr. Alonzo contact Recreation Services Director Brian Grube to further discuss this program.

5. **ACTION ITEM**

**ELECTION OF CO-CHAIR FOR CY 2013.** Commissioner Kleiner volunteered to serve as Co-Chair for the remainder of calendar year 2013. Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to nominate Commissioner Kleiner. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ziegler. Motion passed with unanimous approval (6) yea votes.

6. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

- A. SHORTAGE OF A WESTSIDE PARK. This item was tabled until the October meeting. Staff is working with the City's Real Estate Manager who is in the process of amending City maps and has asked him to come to next month's meeting to make a presentation regarding potential parcels for a Westside park.
- B. BUSHMASTER PARK UPDATE. Over the past 18 months, an internal focus group consisting of City staff members from Parks, Public Works, Police Department, Recreation and Sustainability, have been tasked with finding solutions for the issues at Bushmaster Park. Community partnerships were developed along the way, with a grant study being conducted by North Country Healthcare. Results from the study looked at what the obstacles were in the area that kept citizens from using local parks. Community concerns from the neighborhood groups included safety, community health, and a lack of new facilities.

Community outreach and public planning workshops with the community were led by Commissioner Hammersley and City staff to help identify design elements, a budget, and a timeline. Potential available funds were identified from the 1996 Bond in the amount of \$1.1 million. An internal concept plan and internal cost estimates were developed, which were at the \$1.1 million budget. The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the concept plan and recommended to City Council that they fund the Bushmaster Park improvements with the remaining 1996 bond funds in the amount of \$1.1 million.

Staff recently met with the City Manager who was supportive of the project, and gave staff the direction to have a formal concept plan developed along with cost estimates. Hopefully, this information would give staff a more accurate picture of the cost of the project. A Bushmaster Park Concept Plan Estimate was distributed for review. Elements of the project were prioritized and two phases of the project were identified. Staff asked if the Commission agreed with the prioritization of the elements they would move forward with a concept plan. Anything over the cost of \$1.1 million is identified as Phase 2.

Access into the park is the first priority, which includes infrastructure improvements. It was the consensus of the Commission that rather than three small ramadas being built in Phase One, they would prefer that the large group ramada, vendor walkway, and irrigated grass area be considered one component with one small ramada under Phase One and move the two small ramadas to Phase Two. These improvements would create opportunities for small venues to bring new events into the park. Being sensitive to the funding limits and adding a new large ramada is a big deal, which would enhance the use of the park in a tremendous way, creating multiple programming opportunities for groups. Staff estimates the total construction phases, both one and two, to be \$1,662,000 with an additional annual maintenance cost of \$24,572. Staff is also tasked with identifying the Bushmaster Park Improvements in the Master Plan and they plan on bringing the concept plan to City Council sometime in October for their review.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

- C. PARKS AND RECREATION USER FEES. The new Parks and Recreation fees were implemented on September 1. All the changes in the computer system went smoothly, and staff hasn't heard any negative feedback. It is believed that the fee increases are very affordable for municipal recreation in Flagstaff. Staff hopes to have a formal user fee study in motion by next year.
- D. JAY LIVELY ACTIVITY CENTER UPDATE AND TIMELINE. At the end of June the compressors at the Ice Rink completely failed. The two new compressors on the chiller system and the ice have been holding steady since mid August. Funding to install the second unit that is on site is a high priority given the recent events. The Fleet Committee recently approved the purchase of a new Zamboni, which should be received about this time next year.
- E. PUBLIC WORKS CORE SERVICES YARD UPDATE. Earlier this year the City advertised for Requests for Proposals for the Public Works Core Services Yard and one proposal was received. An agreement wasn't able to be reached with that party. Requests for Proposals were recently advertised again and will close on September 24. It will take staff about one month to review all proposals and then they will accept a bid and begin negotiations. Last year, a \$14 million bond was approved by the voters to purchase property with existing building and infrastructure that meet the City's needs rather than building a brand new facility. The existing facility and potentially other City-owned properties would be sold and/or exchanged to offset the cost of the project. In addition, other revenue sources, including Solid Waste fees, will be used to help fund the project.

7. REPORTS

- A. OPEN SPACES COMMISSION UPDATE. The Open Spaces Commission has been reviewing the designated acres of Open Space within the City. A spreadsheet has been generated with 17 parcels in inventory, 10 of those were reviewed last week. They will continue to review the remaining 7 at their October meeting. David McIntyre, the City's Real Estate Manager, made the presentation to the Open Spaces Commission and he will be available to answer questions during next month's meeting.
- B. MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS OF PARKS AND RECREATION. Both the Parks and Recreation reports stand as presented in the agenda packet. Glorice Pavey, Recreation Supervisor for Community Events, was recently the recipient of the Agassiz Award for Leadership. She was recognized for her leadership role in the Dew Downtown Urban Ski and Snowboard event, making it a signature event for Flagstaff with significant economic benefits for downtown businesses. Two other Public Works employees, Nicole Woodman and Chris Monteverde were also recognized.

Recreation Services Director Grube recently returned from the NRPA Director's School and he will be reporting on what he learned over the next few months. Two Recreation staff, Shauna Fisher and Matt Faulk will be traveling to the NRPA Congress in October. Danny Neal and Crystal Warden-Gant recently went to the APRA Conference and Crystal was a presenter at the Conference and recently highlighted in an article in the APRA Magazine. It is nice to have training dollars back in the budget after not receiving any kind of training for a couple of years.

REPORTS (Cont'd.)

The annual Open House Anniversary at the Aquaplex was held in late August, with 38 new memberships purchased and 60 renewed. The celebration included free admission all day, the Big Kahunas played in the lobby from 5:00-6:00 p.m., a bounce house in the gym, refreshments, and promotional giveaways. The solar project at the Aquaplex is on time with an estimated completion date of October 9. On October 19, the annual Corn Hole Tournament will return to the Aquaplex. A badminton tournament will be held at the Aquaplex on October 12 and Recreation is excited to keep this program running and collaborating with the community to do so.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Commissioner Hammersley asked Shauna Fisher, Recreation Supervisor, to attend the Public Parks Private Funding session at NRPA. A recent article in the NRPA magazine highlighted very rich individuals who have taken over the operations of a park but it does not always work out for the residents of the community. It looks like a good opportunity on the front end but a bad idea in the end as individuals repurpose and redesign parks according to their likes and dislikes, not the communities.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 16, 2013 MEETING

- Bushmaster Park Update
- Future Bond Possibilities
- City owned Properties

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.