

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Burley
John Fall
Charles Hammersley
Emily Outhwaite
Brian Young

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Emily Ford
Lynn Harris
Anna LaBenz
Michael LeBenz
Kelly Miller
Jared Wesley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gregory Kleiner

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Fall, Hammersley, Outhwaite, and Young were present for roll call. Commissioner Burley arrived at 4:02 p.m. Commissioner Kleiner was absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2013 MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to approve the March 20, 2013 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Outhwaite. Motion passed with unanimous approval (4 yea votes).

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

5. PRESENTATION ITEM

- A. FLAGSTAFF REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE. The *Flagstaff Regional Plan* is intended to guide land use decisions in the City of Flagstaff and surrounding areas within the Flagstaff Municipal Planning Organization (FMPO) planning boundary to ensure a high quality of life balanced between development and ecosystem health. The goals, policies, and recommendations of the *Flagstaff Regional Plan* continue to be developed through a coordinated regional planning effort that gives due consideration to local area plans of the communities that make up the region, including state and federal agency plans.

The goal is to help ensure that the Flagstaff region remains an outstanding area in which to live, while ensuring that future generations continue to enjoy the exceptional quality of life that the Flagstaff region has to offer by presenting a comprehensive vision for the future of the area, and by providing guidance to help that vision become a reality. The vision that guides this plan looks out over the next 20 years, while the goals and policies are intended to serve for the next 10 years.

PRESENTATION ITEM (Cont'd.)

State law requires a 60 day public comment period after the first public release, which was March 2013. After those comments are received, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will complete their work and a public hearing draft will be published in June 2013. Both the City Council and the County Board of Supervisors will review the document from July-Sept. 2013, with adoption in November or December 2013. The adopted document will go before the voters for ratification in May 2014. The public can view the document, make comments, and take a survey on the following website: www.flagstaffmatters.com.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. JACK'S LITTLE BROTHER (JLB) PROJECT. Recreation Services Director Brian Grube reported that the City of Flagstaff doesn't have a policy addressing a project like this, nor are they interested in creating one. As a government entity, the City of Flagstaff doesn't want to set precedence and has to stay on neutral ground when sending messages to the community, as messages can be implied and agreeing to a message means the City agrees and aligns them with it. City officials feel that the proposers are able to work within the policies already established in Resolution No. 2001-73 to accomplish their goal. It is staff's recommendation not to move forward with the recommendation as presented. The proposers could tweak components of the plan or remove specific items which would enable the project to then move forward within the policies already in place.

This project tugs at everyone's heartstrings but it is felt the City shouldn't get into the business of donating City owned land to non-profit groups. The area in the proposal is identified as underutilized; but could actually be thought of as open space. Tucson's Memorial Park is a partnership with both the City and County. The City of Tucson owns the property and maintains it, and a private organization administers the program. The Flagstaff Cemetery maintains a specific area for the TWA Memorial, Veterans, and babies who have passed, which is a more typical location for this kind of memorial. A Request for Proposals process would need to be developed because of the magnitude and cost of this proposal, and procurement guidelines would have to be followed.

Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to direct staff to continue to engage in dialogue with Jack's Little Brother (JLB) proposers in order to find a new proposal. Motion seconded by Commissioner Burley. Motion passed with unanimous approval (5 yea votes).

7. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

- A. INDOOR TENNIS UPDATE. It was reported that Northern Arizona University (NAU) is taking the lead regarding the indoor tennis courts. They have recently hired a firm to complete a Facilities Master Plan and they anticipate its completion sometime next month, with the results being published in the summer. It was also noted that they are in the process of hiring a consultant for a new pool and there is talk about including tennis courts in that design.

B. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

- C. POTENTIAL USE FOR UNUSED 1996 BOND FUNDS. The funds haven't been allocated to any specific project at this time, but it looks like the needs at Bushmaster Park may be a priority. A Concept Plan for redevelopment of Bushmaster Park, created by Commissioner Hammersley, after facilitating two public meetings was distributed for review. The Concept Plan is posted on the City's website and staff will be taking comments for two weeks. After the comments are received and noted, there will be one last meeting with the neighborhood to plan how to proceed. Staff has met with representatives from North County HealthCare. Staff is working up rough estimates of the proposed improvements and will take those to the Public Works Director, and then it will be the City Manager and Deputy City Managers who will need to approve a funding source. It is felt that a lot of the work can be done in house and there may be other ways to save money. The fact that the bond money is from 1996 is in the project's favor, as it is an existing park with improvements, not a new development.

7. REPORTS

- A. OPEN SPACES COMMISSION UPDATE. The Open Spaces Commission is interested in moving forward in acquiring the Observatory Mesa Property and they are optimistic that it could be purchased at a lower cost through the City with bond money. The State Land Trust has approved it as a conservation area.
- B. MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS OF PARKS AND RECREATION. Staff identified that advertising for Recreation Services has been purchased through the Money in the Mail publication, which is distributed monthly to all residents. The Soar into Spring Kite Festival will be on Saturday, May 11 at Foxglenn Park. Security film was installed at the Aquaplex around the pool area, which will prevent glass from getting into the pool if broken.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF.

The City Manager has decided not to fill the Community Enrichment Services Director position, which was left vacant in January. Recreation Services will be reorganized under the Public Works Department beginning July 1.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MAY 15, 2013 MEETING.

- Potential Use for Unused 1996 Bond Funds/Bushmaster Park Update
- Consideration of a Westside Park
- NAU Aquatic Discussions
- Recreation Services Fee Schedule
- Jack's Little Brother (JLB) Project

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.