

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2013

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Fall
Gregory Kleiner
Emily Outhwaite
Brian Young

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Anna LaBenz
Michael LeBenz
Kelly Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT

Denise Burley
Charles Hammersley

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Young at 4:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 28, 2013 MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Kleiner to approve the February 28, 2013 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Outhwaite. Motion passed with unanimous approval (4 yea votes).

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael O'Connor stated that he is a member of this year's Flagstaff Leadership Program (FLP). Each year the FLP brings together a class of approximately 25 diverse individuals to spend nine months learning about the challenges and opportunities facing the greater Flagstaff area. As FLP graduates, they are ready to assume responsibility as community leaders and to serve as a resource for their employers and other organizations that seek to make a positive investment in our community.

Mike's team has picked Bushmaster Park as their project and they will be having a Community Beautification Day on April 27 at the park. The scope of work includes completing maintenance on the horseshoe pits and volleyball courts, replacing the bounce boards on the tennis courts, and refurbishing some of the landscaping. The Director of Second Chance Animal Shelter is also in the class and he and his teammates will be focusing on the Bark Park. In order to get the community involved, they are also considering having volunteers paint the ramada pillars in "neighborhood themes."

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. JACK'S LITTLE BROTHER (JLB) PROJECT. Commissioner Young reported that the City's Legal Department has not had a chance to review the proposal to see if they can legally proceed and suggested that this item be tabled. Motion made by Commissioner Kleiner to table this item until next month. Motion seconded by Commissioner Fall. Motion passed with unanimous approval (4 yea votes).

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

- B. AQUAPLEX ART PROJECT. Motion made by Commissioner Kleiner that staff inform the artists not to continue with this project with the understanding that they can place it at the Aquaplex. Commissioner Fall seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval (4 yea votes).

7. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

- A. INDOOR TENNIS UPDATE. It was reported that 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. NAU has more land available for facilities development than the City and it is unclear whether the previously mentioned donor is still interested in a partnership with either NAU or the City.

It is felt that the community could only support one tennis facility and that any partnership with NAU would be in the best interest of their students and not that of the community. A bubble structure over the FRC tennis courts was previously discussed with a cost of approximately \$450K to \$500K, which didn't include management and staffing. Plans are on hold until NAU's Facilities Master Plan is published. Both Kevin Burke, City Manager, and Jerene Watson, Deputy City Manager, meet regularly with NAU's President and others from his management team and they are the driving force at this time.

- B. MASTER PLAN UPDATE. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by City Council on February 5. The consultant is in the process of making some minor revisions and when completed the final version will be distributed to staff and Commissioners. The plan will be used as a guiding document for future planning.
- C. REVIEW CAPITAL LIST. The following projects were identified as the Parks and Recreation Commission's top priorities on the City's Unfunded Capital Projects list at the April 18, 2012 meeting. The projects weren't rated in any kind of order as the disparity in the cost of each project would need to be considered as funds become available.

- Continental Park – Phase I
- Westside Park Land Acquisition
- Tennis Bubble or Indoor Tennis Courts
- Lap Pool – either 25 or 50 yards
- Bushmaster Park Improvements
- Christensen Park Land Acquisition
- Wheeler Park Improvements/Redesign

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

- D. CREATE AND PRIORITIZE 2013 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION GOALS. Commissioner Hammersley will be chairing the two Bushmaster Park Outreach meetings at the Aquaplex on March 27 and April 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Public input will be the guiding force in determining improvements to the park, which some have already been identified, like parking, accessibility, restrooms, park perimeters, visibility into the park, and outdoor exercise equipment.
- E. POTENTIAL USE FOR UNUSED 1996 BOND FUNDS. The funds haven't been specifically allocated to any specific project at this time, but it looks like the needs at Bushmaster Park may be a priority.
- F. FORMAL RECOMMENDATION TO CITY MANAGER REGARDING THE COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR POSITION. The Parks and Recreation Commission voted to send a formal recommendation to the City Manager regarding the expediency of hiring a Community Enrichment Services Director at the February 28, 2013 meeting. It was noted that nobody offered to write the recommendation letter. If Commissioners are still interested in sending that recommendation, a letter would need to be sent through Staff Liaison Brian Grube to the City Manager.

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.
- B. MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS OF PARKS AND RECREATION. It was recently discovered that the Wildcat Water Treatment Plant was originally issued a permit for A+ quality water, but it is only producing an A quality. All users, both private and public, with the exception of Continental County Club, who may be grandfathered in, have to reduce their water usage by 35% beginning May 1. This reduction in use is expected to affect all of the parks and ball fields this summer. Internally, staff is looking at a lot of different scenarios, and one option being explored is using potable water, which has to be approved by City Council. Also, Parks has a water management system in place which has already decreased their use, and they are hoping they have already met the required reduction.

Reservations for summer ramada rental use begin on April 1. Community Events will be hosting the Easter in the Park at Bushmaster Park on Saturday, March 30. The Dave Logan band, egg dying, and activities and games will begin at 1:00 p.m. Jay Lively will be holding their Spring Broom Ball Tournament on April 6 and 7. The Aquaplex will be co-hosting the North Country Health Fair on April 12. The Aquaplex experienced a break in and vandalism in the pool area on March 16. Cameras weren't able to catch the vandals, who did about \$3,000 in damage, including breaking out some brick siding on the building, breaking a window, and breaking tiles and glass in the hot tub. Staff will be meeting later this week to address the vandalism and theft issues that have occurred at the Aquaplex.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF. Commissioner Young attended the Commission orientation held on March 12 by the City Clerk's office. He felt the information was interesting and will be helpful to him in the future. Commissioner Fall distributed a handout from the Daily Sun summarizing a few things the Commission has recently been involved in.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 17, 2013 MEETING.

- Review Capital List
- Create and Prioritize 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission Goals
- Indoor Tennis Update
- Consideration of a Formal Recommendation to the City Manager Regarding the CES Director's Position
- Potential Use for Unused 1996 Bond Funds
- Jack's Little Brother Project (JLB)

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.