

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ardis Easton
Jessica Fitchett
Adam Kaupisch
Gregory Kleiner
Jim Stratton
Thomas Ziegler

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Drummond
Brian Grube
Gail Jackson
David McIntire
Steve Zimmerman

OTHERS PRESENT

Ervin Boren
Ralph Boyer
Barry Brennan
Mary Ann Cullen
Jennifer Grogan
Ricky Roberts
Ken Stanley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Hammersley

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Fitchett, Kaupisch, Kleiner, Stratton, and Ziegler were present for roll call. Commissioner Easton arrived at 4:17 p.m. and Commissioner Hammersley was absent.

3. **APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2015 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Kleiner to approve the March 11, 2015 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kaupisch. Motion passed with unanimous approval (5 yea votes).

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

5. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Renaming the Flagstaff Recreation Center to the Hal Jensen Memorial Recreation Center - Marine League of Charities.** Members from the local Marine League Charities (MLC) requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission consider making a recommendation to City Council to change the name of the Flagstaff Recreation Center to the "Hal Jensen Memorial Recreation Center." Individuals gave testimony and shared their personal experiences with Mr. Jensen's generosity in helping children and families and his lifetime record of "long term unconditional service to the community." Mr. Jensen retired as a Major from the Marine Corps in 1974 after over 26 years of distinguished service. He encouraged his family to be active in the Flagstaff community, setting an example himself, as well as being a supporter of many Flagstaff events, including the Flagstaff Youth Program, the Coconino Community College Scholarship Fund, the Wounded Marine Program, and the Marine Relief Program. Motion made by Commissioner Kleiner to recommend to City Council that Flagstaff Recreation Center be renamed Hal Jensen Memorial Recreation Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fitchett. Motion passed unanimously with five (5) yea votes.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

- B. Flagstaff Veteran's Home – David McIntire, Assistant to the City Manager, Real Estate. A Department of Veteran Services (DVS) representative recently met with City staff to tour potential locations for a 60 bed skilled care facility for Veterans. A portion of the City owned land with Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 109-02-001N was the preferred location for the DVS and the only parcel they felt met their needs. This area on top of McMillan Mesa is eleven (11) acres in size.

The facility could provide 60 beds and skilled care for veterans and would serve the northern Arizona region. It is estimated that this facility could bring up to 80 new jobs to Flagstaff that pay an average wage of \$16.77-\$19.86 per hour. The City's contribution is limited to the provision of the land and the soft costs (appraisal, title work, survey work) associated with that provision. The construction costs and operations costs would come exclusively from state and federal agencies.

The City property under consideration is zoned Rural Residential and is listed in the Regional Plan as undesignated per City Council direction during the October 2013 land inventory discussion. It has been a part of a number of adopted plans as well and has been considered both for development and preservation in various contexts. It sits between an existing urban trail (FUTS), electrical easement, the Gemini Drive right of way, and an APS substation. There may be a need to preserve some small portion of the parcel for cinder storage efficiencies.

There is still discussion regarding the best option for providing the land should Council choose that direction. Giving the land through donation would require an ordinance and deed and is the method requested by DVS. The ordinance and the deed would require the property return to City ownership should the project not proceed within a reasonable and defined time period. Should the preferred direction be a long term intergovernmental agreement with the State of Arizona, that would be approved by Resolution, and would also contain provisions recapturing the land if the facility is not constructed within a certain time period. It is not certain that DVS would approve this option.

There have been previous discussions about a process for evaluating land donation requests, however there is not a clear City policy at this time. The City Attorney is currently looking into any legal issues that could be associated with this transaction. There are a number of steps to take in the near term to move the project forward while providing Council the information necessary to make final decisions. Administrative staff will proceed with the following:

- Conduct outreach efforts by meeting with Open Spaces and Parks and Recreation Commissions, local veterans groups and conduct a Town Hall meeting.
- Research any charter and procurement implications of providing the contribution through donating land, leasing land, and or an intergovernmental agreement.
- Work with DVS to determine the additional steps needed to proceed.
- Bring discussion and action items to City Council for consideration as needed to provide appropriate opportunities for public input and to have a final decision on the provision of land.
- Provide information to City Council as needed for their efforts to discuss these items with State and Federal policy makers.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Motion made by Commissioner Kleiner to table this item until next month. The motion died for lack of second motion. Motion made by Commissioner Kaupisch to recommend to City Council approval of the parcel for the proposed Veteran's facility with a caveat of returning the land to City ownership if after 5 years they haven't secured the funding and after 7 years if they haven't begun construction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with five (5) yeas and one nay vote. An open house soliciting public input will be held on April 28 at City Hall at 4:30 p.m.

5. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

- A. Snow Play Update. City staff was recently approached by an individual who wants to pursue a snow play area on McMillan Mesa. A Council communication will be drafted and presented to the City Council by next week.
- B. Bushmaster Park Update. Construction documents have been presented to the City's Procurement Office and they will be developing a bid schedule. It is anticipated that the bids will open on April 30, with a contract presented to City Council at their May 26 meeting.
- C. Recreation Services Update – Budget , 50k Programming Challenge, Capital Projects and Aquaplex. Staff is reviewing the process for selling advertising space at the Thorpe Park Softball Fields. It is unclear at this time whether or not the program will have to go out for bid. A projected \$6 to \$8 thousand dollars in additional revenue is anticipated. Staff has ordered the access control equipment for the Aquaplex and it is anticipated it will be delivered and installed by the end of the month. The Ice Rink will be closing on April 27 for their annual closure and repairs. A rust inhibitor will be applied to the beams, improvements will be made to the locker rooms and a thermal energy blanket will be installed which will help with humidity and utility costs.
- D. Changes to the Special Event Packet. Staff is working with the Legal Department on changes to the Special Event Permit Packet for Heritage Square and street closures. A provision has been added to limit the number of special events at Heritage Square that have the primary purpose of offering goods or services for sale. Such events will be considered primary retail sales events and be limited to one per month at Heritage Square. The proposed changes were presented to Council at their March 31 meeting and will be revisited at one of their May meetings.

7. REPORTS

- A. Monthly Highlights of Parks and Recreation. Both Parks and Recreation reports stand as submitted in the Commission packet.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MAY 20, 2015 MEETING

- A. Bushmaster Park Update

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.