

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ardis Easton  
Charles Hammersley  
Adam Kaupisch  
Jim Stratton  
Thomas Ziegler

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jessica Fitchett  
Gregory Kleiner

**STAFF PRESENT**

Josh Copley  
Sara Dechter  
Kathy Drummond  
Brian Grube  
Jennifer Mikelson  
Michael O'Connor  
Kim Ott  
Glorice Pavay  
Erik Solberg  
Steve Zimmerman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

27 individuals for the  
Wheeler Park and LPVNA  
Discussions  
(see file for specific names)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ziegler at 4:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Easton, Hammersley, Kaupisch, Stratton, and Ziegler were present for roll call. Commissioners Fitchett and Kleiner were absent.

3. **APPROVAL OF JULY 15, 2015 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Stratton to approve the July 15, 2015 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kaupisch. Motion passed with unanimous approval (5 yeas votes).

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

5. **DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS**

A. **LA PLAZA VIEJA NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN'S PARK POLICIES.** Since July 2014, City staff and La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Association (LPVNA) have been collaborating to update the Specific Plan for the La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood, originally drafted in 2012. This renewed effort included forming a new project team, regular meetings with the neighborhood association and public meetings to look at new information, issues, and potential directions for the plan. The team, which includes two members of LPVNA, have updated the Plan to align with the new Regional Plan, incorporating up-to-date public involvement, and better incorporate the partnership between the City and the neighborhood. Before the Plan goes to public hearings for adoption in Fall 2015, staff is seeking input from City Commissions on the Plan's policies and implementation strategies. All recommendations gathered from City Commissions will be incorporated into the public hearing draft of the Specific Plan for the La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Staff is requesting direction from the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Specific Plan's parks related policies, specifically the items listed under Implementation Strategy 3.1: "Enhance Old Town Springs Park."

- Purchasing and installing a new flagpole and light fixture in order to permanently fly the American flag at Old Town Springs Park to commemorate the historic significance of the natural spring in Flagstaff's history.
- Addressing crowding at the Old Town Springs Park by installing a second porta-potty, indicating a limit on available on and off site parking in the Parks reservation system, and extending the red curb along Lower Coconino Ave. to further limit on-street parking.
- Having the Old Town Springs Park designated as a first come first served facility in order to increase availability to nearby residents.

Parks and Streets staff have been involved in the update of the Specific Plan for La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood. Early revisions to the parks goals, policies, and implementation strategies were reviewed by Steve Zimmerman and Mike O'Connor. Steve and Mike provided early feedback on the feasibility of the Plan's goals, and helped shape more specific implementation strategies for park improvements. They also were present at the Old Town Springs Park neighborhood meeting, where they were available to answer specific questions about maintenance and budget issues related to park improvements.

It was the consensus of the Commission that they wanted the following implementation strategy for Policy 3.1 to be removed from the plan: "Consider having the Old Town Springs Park a first come, first served facility so that it is more available to nearby residents." Planning staff will review all traffic/parking related implementation strategies with the Transportation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission's comments will be compiled with other Commission recommendations into upcoming staff reports to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council.

- B. THORPE PARK LETTER TO COUNCIL. Chair Ziegler formulated the following letter to the City Manager, Mayor and Councilmembers and asked the Commission for their support:

"Two months ago, a group of citizens brought to the attention of the Parks and Recreation Commission that the current Public Works Yard near downtown Flagstaff was built on a piece of property that was actually designated as part of Thorpe Park. Although the use was different, the designation of this property as a City park remains today.

The Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously agreed that park property within the City limits is an extremely valuable asset to the City and should remain a part of our City park system. While we understand the need to sell property to help finance a new Public Works Yard in west Flagstaff, we believe that the City should consider selling other property to achieve that goal.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

The Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Commission strongly urges the City to keep all of the property that is included in the original Thorpe Park designation as park property once the Public Works Yard moves to the west side of Flagstaff." It was the consensus of the Commission to support Chair Ziegler's letter and submit it to the City Manager's Office.

C. WHEELER PARK UPDATE. Events in Wheeler Park have become larger in size and complexity since the 1990's and the park has seen an increase in usage. In 2003, 2008 and 2014 the park was rehabilitated and the drainage issues resolved. Precipitation has been above normal in 2015, and rain occurs most often before or during events. Options were presented for management of Wheeler Park by both staff and 18 members from the public, including:

- Continuing to use the park as it is currently used.
- Replacing turf or seed areas as needed.
- Using the park for events, but event producers may be asked to reconfigure their events based on restrictions due to maintenance.
- Use the park in its entirety, but it could return to its previous condition before the 2014 rehabilitation.
- Create a common balance for all users.
- Only two events per month allowed in Wheeler Park and/or the parking lot.
- Limit the number and size of events.
- No multi-day events on any of the grass from July 1 through the end of Labor Day weekend (monsoon season).
- Only one day events on the grass (does not include set up or tear down).
- Events longer than one day must be on hardscape (including closure of Aspen Ave. if needed).
- Utilize alternative layout for multi day events (L shape).
- Some events could use the front lawn of City Hall.
- All craft fairs on hardscape.
- All alcohol/beer sales on hardscape.
- Use artificial turf in the problem areas.
- Event producers dedicate funds for maintenance of the park.
- Research funding to hire a design consultant to develop a concept that creates a dual purpose facility, which would include public input meetings.
- Look into why the park isn't draining correctly since the 2014 rehabilitation.
- Consider going out for a future bond for a new event venue.

D. SNOW PLAY UPDATE. There wasn't anything new to report.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

E. BUSHMASTER PARK UPDATE. The contractor has completed the roller rink which took 308 yards of concrete and the fitness pad which took 60 yards of concrete. The rough plumbing and stem walls for the restrooms are installed. The contractor will be pouring the floor next week and start constructing the walls. The landscape wall around the playground area is completed. The contractor is working on the grade work for various walkways and is expected to pour the concrete in the coming weeks. The playground installer is schedule to be onsite September 1 to install the playground and the large group ramada and it is anticipated to take three weeks. Three other 24' X 30' ramadas have been completed by staff.

6. REPORTS

A. MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS OF PARKS AND RECREATION. The Parks and Recreation reports stand as submitted in the Commission packet.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Director Grube stated that he has accepted a position with County Parks and Recreation and his last day with the City will be August 25. His new position will be as Assistant Parks and Recreation Director and he hopes to bring collaborative recreation programs to the community. Mike O'Connor has been assigned as the staff liaison for the Commission and Rebecca Sayers will be acting interim Recreation Director. The Commission expressed their gratitude for his work with the City, and wished him success with his new job opportunity.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 MEETING

- Wheeler Park Update
- Bushmaster Update
- La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Park Policies

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.