

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jessica Fitchett
Jennifer Grogan
Adam Kaupisch
Jim Stratton

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Drummond
Michael O'Connor
Rebecca Sayers
Steve Zimmerman

OTHERS PRESENT

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Hammersley
Thomas Ziegler

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2015 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Stratton to approve the January 20, 2015 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grogan. Motion passed with unanimous approval (4 yeas votes).

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

5. **DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS**

- A. **McMillan Mesa Development Plan.** Council recently approved the location of McMillan Mesa for a skilled care facility for Veterans. The area on top of McMillan Mesa is 11 acres in size and 8 acres will be held for the Veteran's Home while they secure funding. The construction and operations costs will come exclusively from state and federal agencies. The County Parks and Recreation Department will begin developing a request for proposals from private companies interested in creating and operating a snowplay area. The goal is to provide another place for winter recreation enthusiasts away from the Highway 180 corridor to help ease the traffic congestion and crowding that have become a safety hazard for travelers and residents alike.

City Council and the Coconino County Board of Supervisors will hold a joint meeting regarding this item on March 7 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall. The location the county is considering for the snowplay area is 15 to 18 acres northwest of the campsites at Fort Tuthill. The site includes a clear, flat area and a berm that were part of Fort Tuthill's historic shooting range as well as a few taller and steeper forested hills that surrounds the range. The slopes are north-facing and hold snow well. The county's goal is to have the area open by the winter of 2016-2017. In its request for proposals, the county will be looking for a private operator that would make site improvements, provide amenities and operate the snowplay area.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

History and studies completed indicate that there needs to be increased snow play areas and opportunities around the City and Coconino County. Coconino County staff will present options at Ft. Tuthill and City staff will talk about passive snow play options in municipal parks.

- B. Future Parks and Recreation Bond Options. Capacity for bonding was discussed recently at the Council retreat. At the current time the City's bonding capacity is at its limit without impacting the secondary taxes. Representatives from the City's Finance Department couldn't make it to this month's meeting, but they can make a presentation at the March meeting.
- C. DEW Downtown Update. The event which was held on January 30 was considered a successful event. Because the event was scaled down it was easier for the crews to put up and take down. It only took 2 days to make the snow, also using less water. The arts and crafts activities, photo booth, and events at Heritage Square were all free of charge. The city charged \$10 for a wristband for 3 play features: Snowzilla, a snow globe, and ice skating. Pepsi and Nackard sponsored the events at the Snowbowl and they expressed that they were happy with the event. Downtown businesses also stated they were pleased with the event because families were going into their establishments and spending money. The event seemed to be more family oriented this year. Staff is hoping to partner with the Downtown Business Alliance (DBA) in the future, with them taking over more of the planning and administrative duties.

6. REPORTS

- A. Monthly Highlights of Parks. The monthly report was included in the agenda packet, and stands as presented. The engineer completed the site survey on the Hal Jensen tennis courts and came back with some recommendations. There are three pipes going under the tennis courts and he feels that some of the fence poles may have punctured one of the pipes. They will continue exploring to find answers while working with the Utilities Division to use their camera to get a look inside the pipes.
- B. Monthly Highlights of Recreation. The monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. The pool plaster has been removed and the play structure was removed and sent off to be stripped and powder coated with new paint.
- C. Open Spaces Commission. The monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF.

Commissioner Caldwell has resigned his position on the Parks and Recreation Commission as he has been transferred to Phoenix with his job. The Public Works Director interviews will be conducted on February 18 and 19, with 4 candidates competing. Shane Dille, the new Deputy City Manager started on February 17. He previously held the position of City Manager in Nogales, Arizona.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 16, 2016 MEETING.

- A. Tennis Facilities Update
- B. Future Parks and Recreation Bond Options
- C. Snow Play Update

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.