

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jessica Fitchett
Jennifer Grogan
Adam Kaupisch
Jim Stratton

STAFF PRESENT

Andy Bertelsen
Kathy Drummond
Betsy Emery
Mike O'Connor
Steve Zimmerman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Hammersley
Thomas Ziegler

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kaupisch at 4:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2016 MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Grogan to approve the March 16, 2016 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fitchett. Motion passed with 4 yeas votes.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Andy Bertelsen, the new Public Works Director, was introduced and welcomed by the Commission. Mr. Bertelsen stated that he came from Coconino County where he was instrumental in helping to develop two Parks and Recreation Programs, the North Pole Experience and the Flag Extreme Ropes Course, and looks forward to working with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

5. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

- A. Unfunded Capital List Discussion. A list identifying both Parks and Recreation unfunded capital projects was included in the agenda packet. Staff highlighted each of the parks projects and provided updated costs.

Arroyo Park – the City has completed some of the improvements at this facility within the last two years, including new playground equipment, a ramada, and pavement surfacing. The City has spent about \$250,000 for these upgrades so it is estimated that \$42,000 would complete the upgrades with paving and resurfacing the other parking lot.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd)

Buffalo Park - improvements include enhancing the entrance way, adding curb, gutter, paved parking, and permanent restroom facilities. Next year, the Beautification Section has budgeted in their program \$250,000 to redesign the entrance, plant some trees and do some design work for the parking lot. Estimated cost: \$1,327,532

Cheshire Park - this property is eight acres in size and improvements would include adding some soccer fields, picnic areas, and a ramada. Estimated cost: \$5,563,387

Clay Basin Park – development of this property could include 2 soccer fields with lights, ramadas, picnic areas, a playground, walkways, nature trails and parking. There could potentially be 23 acres of developed amenities. Staff needs to have further discussions with the Utilities Department as there is a functioning well head there, which will make it a challenge to build soccer fields around. Estimated costs: \$13,708,098

Christensen Park Development – development of the ten acre park could include a playground, basketball or multi-purpose courts, two soccer fields with lights, ramadas, FUTS trail connections, landscaping, parking and restrooms. This project would entail purchasing 8 acres from the Forest Service for parking. Estimated costs: \$9,766,363

Continental Regional Park Development - Phase I - development of a regional park including two soccer fields with light, trails and ramadas. There is 48.28 acres there, however, only approximately 30 acres of land is usable due to a sinkhole, utility easements, and a drainage ditch. Estimated cost: \$30,616,014

Continental Regional Park Development - Phase II - development of additional park amenities, including two soccer fields with lights, playgrounds, dog park, BMX track, disc golf and parks maintenance shop. Estimated cost: \$16,029,861

Joel Montalvo Park Improvements – as some of the improvements have been made and the Beautification Section has budgeted \$250,000 for next year, improvements would include curb, gutter, upgraded parking, expand ADA parking, open plaza area, and landscaping. Previous plan included pulling the field back, but since improvements have been made by the Diamondbacks, staff no longer feels this is a viable option. Estimated cost: \$62,000

Lake Mary Regional Park Development - Development of regional park including infrastructure, playgrounds, ramadas, skate track, inline hockey, outdoor courts, parking, 4 fields with lights, trails and walkways, etc. This park may also serve as site for future recreation facilities. Plans include approximately 50 acres of developed amenities. Estimated cost: \$25,146,009

Cemetery Entrance – Create a new cemetery entrance off of Lone Tree Drive/Woodlands, the current entrance is on South San Francisco St. and NAU is considering eliminating all traffic on that road.

There was some confusion regarding the Unfunded Capital list versus the Parks and Recreation Commission's priorities list which was updated on June 17, 2015. The Parks and Recreation

Master plan was identified as the guiding document for both of these lists, and it was suggested that the Commission continue reviewing both lists alongside the master plan at the May meeting.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd)

From the Unfunded Capital list, the following projects were identified on June 17, 2015 as the Parks and Recreation Commission's top priorities in no specific order.

- Westside Parkland Acquisition/Development
- Competitive Lap Pool
- Bushmaster Park Improvements
- Enclosed Tennis Structure/Bubble
- Wheeler Park Redesign, Phase I
- Christensen Park Acquisition
- Snow Play Area
- Flagstaff Recreation Center Expansion
- 2nd Sheet of Ice at Jay Lively Activity Center

- B. Tennis Court Update. Staff hasn't received a final design yet as they had to go back to the company that did the geo technical work and clarify some parts of their report. Staff will make contact with them to get the final design and then make some internal decisions regarding going out for an RFP or using the approved vendor's contract which is already pre-approved by Council. Further discussion will occur at the May meeting.
- C. Public Works Maintenance Yard in Thorpe Park. The Planning Department will begin community outreach meetings with the neighborhood for potential future use of the current maintenance yard. The Commission drafted a letter in 2015 in support of the property being retained as a park. The new Public Works Core Facility is moving along with an aggressive completion date set for June 30, 2017, and a realistic completion date of fall 2017.

6. REPORTS

- A. Monthly Highlights of Parks. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. Staff is currently working with Arizona Game and Fish to relocate some osprey nests from Thorpe Sports Complex to Francis Short Pond before they begin laying eggs.
- B. Monthly Highlights of Recreation. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. City Council approved Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$105,000 for improvement to the Hal Jensen Recreation Center. Some of the projects that were identified in the Recreation BBB budget will be completed with these funds and other Recreation projects will be identified for the BBB Budget.
- C. Open Spaces Commission. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. On April 19 City Council approved all of the rezoning requests presented to them for open space land and parks. The City has received a \$75,000 grant award from Arizona State Parks for the Picture Canyon trails sign program.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF.

Wheeler park improvements are budgeted for next fiscal year in the amount of \$245,000. Improvements include leveling off the hills, creating an underground leach field that will dump water into the Rio de Flag, and redesigning the area where there is standing water. The challenge is to complete the projects without interrupting the events that are planned there for the summer.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MAY 18, 2016 MEETING.

- Unfunded Capital Improvements
- Hal Jensen Tennis Courts
- Wheeler Park Update

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.