

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017
SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cody Gerhart
Jennifer Grogan
Charles Hammersley
Adam Kaupisch
Jim Stratton
Thomas Ziegler

MEMBERS ABSENT

Brian Bloom

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Drummond
Rebecca Sayers
Steve Zimmerman

OTHERS PRESENT

Rick Miller
Jack Welch

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grogan at 4:01 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Chair Grogan and Commissioners Gerhart, Hammersley, Kaupisch, Stratton and Ziegler were present for roll call. Co-Chair Bloom was absent.

3. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Grogan welcomed Cody Gerhart, the newest Commissioner who was recently appointed by Council, and introduced him to the other Commissioners and staff.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2017 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Stratton to approve the February 15, 2017 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ziegler. Motion passed with 6 yea votes.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rick Miller from the Open Spaces Commission reported that in 2012, 2013 and 2014, the City's Open Space Program partnered with Coconino County and Arizona Game and Fish Department to coordinate an Open Space Symposium. Over the past few months, there has been a lot of interest among partner organizations in hosting an event in mid/late September 2017. Planning is in the initial stages and they are hoping to host a full day Symposium. Parks and Recreation Commissioners were invited to attend and participate in the symposium, which may be held at Rogers Lake.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Soliere Avenue private development.** During the February meeting, Walter Crutchfield from Vintage Partners presented a preliminary concept plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission and requested that they consider sending a letter of support to City Council and the City Manager. Motion made by Commissioner Stratton to send a letter of support to the City Manager and City Council with the caveat that City staff is involved in the development of the project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ziegler. Motion passed with 5 yea votes and 1 nay vote. Commissioner Stratton volunteered to write the letter and forward it to Parks and Recreation staff for delivery.

7. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

- A. Recreation's cost recovery update. A consultant was hired by the City in 2015 to conduct a user fee analysis for Fire, Community Development and Recreation. Recreation's cost analysis was calculated according to direct costs for facility and program based programs run by Recreation staff; 50% for youth enrichment events and activities and 100% for adult enrichment/specialty programs. The Aquaplex has a separate cost recovery policy of 70%.

Recreation is currently below the 62% recommended target per policy, with a 46% cost recovery. Future minimum wage impacts were identified as \$260K for Recreation, which will bring actual cost recovery down to 38%. It was staff's recommendation to keep the current fees where they are now and lower the target level to 38%. Staff was looking for direction from Council on how to move forward and their recommendation was to leave the fees status quo. Staff will still need to address the policy as well as the numbers to bring back to council at a later date.

City Council also recommended that staff request an increase in funding for reduced user fee programs as well as funding for advertising. Staff is looking into the eligibility requirements for participants and may try to coordinate information with the FACTS program as they are also reviewing their requirements.

After the minimum wage increased in January, the equity issue of job responsibilities being proportionate to pay was questioned and is being reviewed by Human Resources. Each Recreation temporary position will be based on a market study and benchmarked to other cities.

- B. Flagstaff Open Spaces, Parks and Recreation (FOSPR) tax initiative. Commissioner Hammersley asked the Commission to consider moving forward with this initiative in helping to raise funds for future Open Spaces, Parks and Recreation capital projects. He recently met with the Friends of the Rio de Flag group and they have volunteered to participate in a focus group. This is an opportunity to have a dedicated funding source that could meet the needs of the community for capital projects for open space, parks and recreation. He volunteered to meet with the Mayor and City Manager to pitch the idea, in hopes of being able to move away from the 2018 bonds and the multiple competing interests. He requested that this item be put on next month's agenda as an action item.
- C. Parks and Recreation Bond update/west side park/Lake Mary Regional Park. During the February meeting it was reported that the language in the 2004 bond was very specific to land acquisition for park land near Lake Mary Road, Mount Elden Middle School and/or Christensen Elementary School. All three areas were reviewed with Commissioners and staff, who indicated that land trades and/or purchases with the Forest Service could only occur by an Act of Congress. Staff recently met with the City's Real Estate Manager who wasn't aware of earlier conversations and the previous Real Estate Manager only remembers pieces of the discussions. Identified land purchases didn't go forward at the time the bond passed as land appraisals completed by the Forest Service were unreasonable.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Staff will request to meet with the Real Estate Manager again to inquire about potential land acquisitions near Christensen School and Lake Mary and report back during the May meeting. It was the consensus of the Commission that although the Christensen area may not solve the west side park issue, it may be the best location to pursue. The next opportunity for a bond would be in the Fall of 2018.

- C. Old Town Springs Park update. Staff has been coordinating implementation of the projects identified in the La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Plan, which include a bigger playground area, enhancing the flag pole and the spring area with native rocks, interpretive and historical signs, and replacing the old wooden fence along with removing the heavy vegetation which will open up the park. The neighborhood is considering a grand opening ceremony on May 5.

8. REPORTS

- A. Monthly Highlights of Parks. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented.
- B. Monthly Highlights of Recreation. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented.
- C. Open Spaces Commission. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

A shooting incident occurred at Hal Jensen Recreation Center on Friday, March 3. At this time the Police don't know what happened other than there was a shooting inside the men's restroom and locker room. Staff on duty saw an injured person who was on the ground and began CPR while the rest of the staff cleared the building and called authorities. The Public Works Director was in the facility at the time of the incident and he reported what an incredible job Hal Jensen Recreation Center staff did in both responding quickly and taking action. The City provided counseling to staff at the center and will continue to provide those services to both staff and the public throughout the week. City maintenance staff made the repairs to the facility on Monday and Tuesday and the facility re-opened on Wednesday, March 8 at 1:00 p.m. The Police Department will continue their investigation and manage media requests. All staff and participants are okay and no one else was involved in the incident. Staff has shared that the community support has been outstanding.

Finance staff confirmed that \$770K is in the Recreation BBB capital one-time fund for fiscal year 2018. Park projects will include replacing the playground equipment at University Highlands, Mobile Haven, and Smokerise parks. In addition, permanent restroom facilities will be constructed at Buffalo Park and Thorpe Park, the Cogdill Center basketball court will be resurfaced, and the tennis court surfaces at Ponderosa Park and Clark Homes courts will be patched and repaired. Recreation projects include cabana repairs, solar thermal system repairs, and LED lights, VFD, and pump switch relocation at the Aquaplex, while the remaining \$155K will be set aside for contingency and/or catastrophic needs.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 19, 2017 MEETING

- Flagstaff Open Space, Parks and, Recreation (FOSPR) Initiative/Westside park action item
- HJRC tennis courts
- Open space symposium
- Budget update

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.