

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jennifer Grogan  
Charles Hammersley  
Jim Stratton  
Thomas Ziegler

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Brian Bloom  
Adam Kaupisch

**STAFF PRESENT**

Kathy Drummond  
Neil Gullickson  
Jim Janecek  
Rebecca Sayers  
Rick Tadder  
Steve Zimmerman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Walter Crutchfield  
Debbi Grogan  
Rose Houk

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 Hammersley, Stratton and Ziegler were present for roll call. Co-Chair Bloom and Commissioner Kaupisch were absent.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 18, 2017 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Ziegler to approve the January 18, 2017 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hammersley. Motion passed with 4 yeas votes.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rose Houk, 824 W. Cherry Ave., asked that the Parks and Recreation Commission keep the citizens of Flagstaff informed if any further information develops regarding re-purposing the Thorpe Park property on Mogollon (the old Public Works yard).

Chuck Hammersley, 219 S. Dunnam St., stated that as the Parks and Recreation Commission explores scenarios and concepts for future Parks and Recreation capital projects they may want to consider a tax initiative. Coconino County's model for acquisition and redevelopment of open space (CPOST), which was a sales tax initiative approved by voters in 2002, was used as an example. The initiative levied a capital projects tax over a term of ten years and expired in 2013. This kind of option could be an opportunity for the City of Flagstaff to consider, which he referred to as Flagstaff Open Space, Parks and Recreation (FOSPR). He asked that this item be put on next month's agenda for further discussion and consideration of creating a committee for the initiative.

## 5. PRESENTATION

- A. Solier Avenue private development - Walter Crutchfield, Vintage Partners. Mr. Crutchfield gave the Commission an overview of the preliminary development and landscape plans for the 95.5-acre project on County Club Drive that includes realignment of Solier Avenue. The concept plan identifies 39.5 acres of stores, restaurants and offices, 35.8 acres of open space for the Rio de Flag flood basin and 17.2 acres of housing. In order to accommodate the commercial development in a flood basin, Solier Avenue would need to be realigned and elevated in order to construct a culvert beneath the Fanning wash as well as widening the road to four lanes and adding bike lanes, medians, gutters and sidewalks.

The developer is prepared to gift the open space with hiking trails, a disc golf course, and maintenance to the City of Flagstaff in perpetuity through a development agreement. Challenges include identifying how much of the property could be developed while still honoring stormwater requirements.

Jim Janecek, Stormwater Project Manager, explained that the City is looking for a rural flood plain designation in order for the citizens of Flagstaff to receive discounts on their flood insurance premiums. Developers are also prepared to work with the Arboretum, landscape design and maintenance professionals so only native plants and natural landscaping would be used in the area. Commissioners requested that this item be added to the March agenda as an action item. The developer is seeking support from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

## 6. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

- A. Parks and Recreation Bond update/west side park/Lake Mary Regional Park. During the January meeting the Commission expressed an interest in planning for a future bond and requested that staff provide the specific bond language for the proposition that passed in 2004. Rick Tadder, Management Services Director, reported that the language is very specific to land acquisition for park land near Lake Mary Road, Mount Elden Middle School and/or Christensen Elementary School. The language also reflected a 10-year time frame, which has already passed, however Mr. Tadder indicated the funds are still available.

All three land 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 that time as land appraisals completed by the Forest Service were cost prohibitive to pursue.

Staff will request to meet with the Real Estate Manager again to inquire about potential land acquisitions near Christensen School and report back during the March 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.

## DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

B. Council's 2018 goals and budget process. Copies of the City Council's 2018 goals were distributed for review. Measurable goals will be further developed at the February 16<sup>th</sup> budget retreat and a revised copy will be available after that time. Staff will also present information on Recreation's cost recovery policy and status as a result of the recent user fee study. Recreation staff are not recommending user fee increases but will be discussing with the Council increased costs to the Section and what the upcoming cost recovery policy should be. An update will be provided during the March meeting.

C. Parks and Recreation budgets and capital projects/BBB Recreation 5-year plan. An overview of the Parks and Recreation operating capital project requests for fiscal year 2018 were highlighted.

Parks has requested operating capital funds to:

- Resurface the tennis courts at Thorpe Park
- Complete Phase III of the block wall installation at Thorpe Park
- Install permanent bathroom facilities at Joel Montalvo Park
- Address Drainage issues at Foxglenn Park
- Replace the basketball court at McPherson Park

Recreation has requested operating capital funds for:

- HJRC equipment needs - outside bleachers, pool table repairs, tables, chairs, chair cart, and reupholstering lobby furniture
- JCM treadmill
- Aquaplex gym curtain
- JLAC boiler repairs
- Contingency fund

Revised service level requests (RSL) for Recreation were submitted for personnel issues, facility issues, and utility rate increases. Parks submitted RSL's for personnel issues. Staff is waiting to find out how much BBB Recreation funding will be available and then projects will be identified for those funds. Last year \$600K was available for projects and used for JLAC boiler repairs, parking lot chip seal projects, and adaptive playground equipment and surfacing at Thorpe Park.

## 7. 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.

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

It was the consensus of the Commission and staff to move the March meeting to the preceding week due to Spring Break.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 8, 2017 MEETING

- City Council's goals and objectives update
- Action item regarding Vintage Partners Soliere development
- Cost recovery update
- 2004 Lake Mary Regional Park bond initiative update
- Flagstaff Open Spaces, Parks, and Recreation (FOSPR) tax initiative

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.