

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Bloom
Charles Hammersley
Jim Stratton
Thomas Ziegler

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Drummond
Betsy Emery
Shawn Mullaney
Rebecca Sayers

OTHERS PRESENT

Jan Blackman
John Grahame
Ron Hren
John Kolody
Randy Marlett
Dave McMullen
Gary Miller
Mike Miller
George Peck
Jana Perpich

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cody Gerhart
Jennifer Grogan
Adam Kaupisch

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Bloom called the meeting of May 17, 2017 to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 19, 2017 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Ziegler to approve the April 19, 2017 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed unanimously with 4 yeas votes.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

5. **DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS**

- A. **Donation of land to the City for open space.** Cavan Property, the developer for the Bungalows on Pine Cliff on top of McMillan Mesa, has offered to donate three parcels to the City of Flagstaff as open space to be incorporated into the expanded boundary of Buffalo Park. The three parcels consist of five acres of property that is deed restricted to open space as part of their development agreement. The three parcels are adjacent to the expanded boundaries of Buffalo Park, as a result of the voter-approved Proposition 413-Greater Buffalo Park. The Open Spaces Commission endorsed staff's recommendation to accept the donation at their April 24 meeting. The Commission discussed how the donated property could be used as trailhead parking and public access to the south end of McMillan Mesa. Commissioners agreed that the parcels have open space value and possible passive recreation opportunities as well as a benefit to the community to be owned by the City for maintenance and management issues. Parks and Recreation Commissioners agreed to support and endorse the acquisition of this property by donation.
- B. **Pickle ball and tennis court inventory and options.** This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting as most members of the public were present for this specific item.

The following individuals addressed the Commission with regard to pickleball and tennis courts in Flagstaff:

- Jan Blackman
- John Grahame
- Ron Hren
- John Kolody
- Randy Marlett
- Dave McMullen
- Gary Miller
- Mike Miller
- George Peck
- Jana Perpich

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

John Grahame presented a power point presentation noting that pickleball is growing throughout the United States and specifically in the southwest. The request is for outdoor pickleball courts either on city-owned tennis courts or other concrete areas. Jana Perpich added that overlaying pickleball lines on tennis courts takes those courts "out of play" for schools according to the United States Tennis Association (USTA) sanctioned tournaments. She was concerned about overlaying tennis courts with pickleball lines because of USTA rules as well as confusing players with too many lines on the courts.

The question of where the City has a large area of concrete that is considered under-utilized was asked. It was suggested that the roller rink at Bushmaster Park could be a short term solution for pickleball by using portable nets and temporary striping. Staff was asked to look at the City's inventory of concrete surfaces in the park system and review current reservations to see what specific days and times they are being used. The Parks and Recreation Commission is actively working on trying to get more municipal facilities and the long term goals are to find opportunities for capital resources. In the meantime, members from both the tennis and pickleball clubs will meet to look at potential options that would help them work together and present their findings at the June meeting.

- C. Parks and Recreation unfunded capital list and priorities. This item was brought forward with the intention of putting together a projects list for the Flagstaff Opens Space, Parks and Recreation (FOSPR) program. The Commission's 2016 revised priority list and FY18-27 unfunded capital projects were presented, and it was noted that there is some overlap between the lists as well as neither of the lists being in priority order. Since the Clay Basin park was put on the list, the Utilities Department has installed several water wells which impedes the ability to add ball fields, so Commissioners and staff agreed the site is no longer viable for park use. Also with the construction of a new pool at Northern Arizona University there might not be a need for a municipal competitive lap pool any longer.

In no priority order the following projects were discussed and will become the Commission's priority list:

- Cheshire park improvements
- Buffalo Park improvements
- Christensen Park development
- Continental Regional Park phase 1
- Continental Regional Park phase 2
- Thorpe Park repurpose (old Public Works yard)
- Wheeler Park
- West side park
- Competitive lap pool
- Lake Mary Regional Park development
- Girls softball facility
- 2nd sheet of ice
- Special events facility/venue
- Tennis facility
- Pickleball facility
- Special events area
- Snow play area (could be included in Lake Mary Regional Park?)

As FOSPR continues to move through the public input process some of the constituent groups and other citizens may identify other projects and needs or bring new ideas for parks and recreation opportunities. It may also be possible to have one facility that accommodates both tennis and pickleball courts separately. Commissioners agreed they should focus their list for the FOSPR program first on land acquisition and then development and maintenance. The Commission noted it is important to focus on areas and programs that are not currently being provided before adding more of what we already have.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

- D. Parks and Recreation bond update. Staff recently met with the Real Estate Manager, Grants Manager, and Finance Director and they are excited that the Commission is interested in reviving this project. There are several funding sources identified that could be used for the Lake Mary area land acquisition. In addition to the Parks and Recreation bond, the Utilities Department has funds, and the Airport has grant funds from ADOT. Staff was also asked to keep the Christensen property in mind when talking with the Forest Service. The group will meet again in June and invite staff from Utilities and the Airport to participate. The previous Lake Mary area concept plan was ambitious and will likely need to be updated to meet the Airport's requirements.

Commissioner Hammersley reported that the FOSPR program seems to be gaining momentum and support from the Mayor and Council and public groups. Commissioner Hammersley has made presentations to the Open Spaces Commission and other special interest groups. The next step is to put together a steering committee, identify specific projects and costs, and begin the public meeting process.

6. REPORTS

- A. Monthly Highlights of Parks. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented as there was no longer a quorum present.
- B. Monthly Highlights of Recreation. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented as there was no longer a quorum present.
- C. Open Spaces Commission. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented as there was no longer a quorum present.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MAY 17, 2017 MEETING

- Parks and Recreation unfunded capital list and priorities
- Parks and Recreation bond update
- Pickle ball and tennis court inventory and options
- Flagstaff Open Space, Parks and Recreation (FOSPR) update

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.