

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Bloom
Jennifer Grogan
Adam Kaupisch
Jim Stratton
Thomas Ziegler

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Drummond
Betsy Emery
Rebecca Sayers
Steve Zimmerman

OTHERS PRESENT

Nat White

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Hammersley

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Grogan called the meeting of June 21, 2017 to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2017 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Ziegler to approve the May 17, 2017 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kaupisch. Motion passed unanimously with 5 yeas votes.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

5. **DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS**

A. **Pickle ball and tennis court inventory discussion.** Staff recently visited the following parks for opportunities to convert some of the existing basketball or tennis courts to pickleball courts as a short-term solution.

- Cheshire Park - four pickle ball courts could fit on the tennis and basketball courts.
- Bow and Arrow Park - two or three pickle ball courts could fit on the basketball court.
- Bushmaster Park - six to eight pickle ball courts could fit on the basketball courts. The roller rink isn't an option due to it being new and staff are still working out programming options for the original intent of the rink.
- Thorpe Park - the basketball court is asphalt and not conducive to pickle ball play.
- Ponderosa Park - several pickle ball courts could fit on one tennis court and two basketball courts.

Cheshire Park seems to be the best option at this time as it is on the west side of town, which is what the pickle ball group asked the Commission to consider. Parks staff would need to remove the existing lines and add new white lines for pickle ball play in addition to the basketball lines. Netting would need to be provided by the pickle ball group and staff would ask for their input to determine if the site is feasible for play. The existing surface at Cheshire Park tennis courts is in good shape and won't need to be resurfaced for another 16 years. The above mentioned courts were identified as they aren't used for competitive U.S. Tennis Association sanctioned tournaments, so the pickle ball lines would not interfere with tournament play. These options are short-term solutions and future consideration for permanent courts could be included in the capital projects discussion. It was the consensus of the Commission for staff to continue working on this with both user groups (tennis and pickle ball).

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

- B. Wheeler Park discussion. Concept plans that staff presented to City Council were included in the agenda packet for review. Council has directed staff to move forward with a redesign of the park, including the green space around City Hall. Drainage, the Wheeler Park parking lot, and ADOT's plan to widen Humphreys would be included in the redesign and would be done so in an environmentally sensitive manner. The City doesn't have funds for construction.

Staff plans to partner with NAU Parks and Recreation to facilitate community meetings and develop the concept plan. There is no funding allocated for this redesign project in the FY18 budget. The funds that were allocated for drainage and design in FY 17 were carried over to the FY18 budget but are on hold until the redesign process is complete.

Nat White, a longtime resident of Flagstaff, feels that the grass issues in Wheeler Park exist because stone buildings were once on the northern edge of the property and when the buildings were demolished for construction of City Hall, the buildings were demolished and buried in place. He suggested that the area be repurposed to accommodate a portable stage and collaborate with special event producers and community groups so the angle of the speakers would project the sound directly into the park and not the neighborhood. The stage would include a full sound system and chairs, and operates on hydraulics that could be set up by one person.

- C. Parks and Recreation unfunded capital list and priorities. Staff has combined the City's Parks and Recreation unfunded capital list and the Commission's projects as discussed during May's meeting. On an annual basis the Commission identifies Parks and Recreation needs and updates the lists. Staff is asking the Commission to look at the projects and to begin prioritizing them. It was the consensus among Commissioners that they would like to dedicate an entire meeting to focus specifically on this item. A doodle poll will be sent out to determine when everyone is available and the best time to meet.
- D. Parks and Recreation bond update. Staff is looking at funding sources with the intent of combining resources to purchase the Lake Mary property. The City plans to submit a letter to the Forest Service in August to request that the property acquisition process be included in their work plan. In addition to the Parks and Recreation bond, the Utilities Department has funds to purchase the land where the Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant is, and the Airport will likely receive grant funds from the Arizona Department of Transportation – Aeronautics Division. The internal group is scheduled to meet again in July and staff will keep the Commission informed as things progress.

6. REPORTS

- A. Monthly Highlights of Parks. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. Stage 2 fire restrictions begin June 22 which includes no smoking or charcoal grills in Parks. The reopening of Thorpe park playground with the new adaptive playground equipment and unitary surface is scheduled for June 19 at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Monthly Highlights of Recreation. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. Parks and Recreation month is July and a calendar of events is posted on the website. Play in the Park will occur two times a week across the City throughout July. July 15 is the Touch a Truck event and the Concerts in the Park at Bushmaster Park begin in July.
- C. Open Spaces Commission. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. City Council recently approved the contract to conduct mechanical forest treatments within Section 8 of Observatory Mesa Natural Area (near the Westridge Neighborhood) to reduce the risk of wildfire and enhance wildlife habitat. This is the final treatment for maintenance through September. Signs have been posted and staff is hoping that there won't be a need to close any of the trails while maintenance is continuing.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE JULY 19, 2017 MEETING
 - Parks and Recreation unfunded capital projects

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.