

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

Members Present

Brian Bloom
Steven Flanagan
Ryan Martin
Jim Stratton
Aurelia Yazzie

Staff Present

Amy Hagin
Rebecca Sayers
Lalena Guider

Others Present

Shannon Anderson
Rick Tadder

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bloom called the meeting of August 19, 2019, to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Chair Bloom, Co-Chair Commissioner Stratton and Commissioners Flanagan, Martin, and Yazzie were present for roll call.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE JULY 17, 2019 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Martin to approve the July 17, 2019 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed unanimously with five (5) yeas votes.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public participation

5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE BOND MEASURE**

Shannon Anderson, Deputy City Manager spoke to the Parks and Recreation Commission about a request from the city to form a committee to prioritize the needs of Parks and Recreation and Open Spaces. The City Manager's office is looking to create a Parks, Recreation, Open Space Priorities Committee at the request of City Council. The committee would meet starting around September or October with a deadline of February in order to align with the budget process. This committee would have a chair and would determine meeting times and length at their first meeting. The purpose of the committee would be to review the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Open Space Plan, Flagstaff Open Space, Parks, and Recreation (FOSPR) citizens' initiative from 2018 recommendations, and financial capacity making use of the secondary property tax for funding these priorities. The committee would determine priorities for funding using the tax. The committee would then present these priorities to City Council. The Council would then determine what priorities they would like to be added to the 2020 ballot, if any.

Rick Tadder, Management Services Director, clarified that the secondary property tax would provide about a total of \$60 million dollars over the next twenty years. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space may not be the only projects making use of this funding.

Commissioners were encouraged to contact Shannon at sanderson@flagstaffaz.gov with times and days that would be convenient for meetings. The City Council is encouraging every Commissioner to participate. All five Commissioners in attendance agreed to support the initiative. Shannon and the

Commission requested the 6th of September as a deadline to contact Shannon with availability for meeting times.

B. WEST SIDE PARK UPDATE

Staff received the proposal for the design of the west side park. Staff will perform the public outreach as a cost savings measure. The recent Commission tour provided some insight into the parcels. Staff will attend an upcoming board meeting for the Home Owner's Association (HOA) that includes Boulder Point to request access across HOA land to the City's parcel. Parks Manager Amy Hagin and Parks and Recreation Director Rebecca Sayers are hoping to conduct outreach mid-October and have two meetings, one for Boulder Point and one for University Heights neighborhoods.

C. STRATEGIC PLANNING (CONTINUED from the July 2019 meeting)

The Commission discussed moving the Continental Park expansion up on the priority list. As the City already owns the land for Continental, that project would be an effective use of resources. Clay Basin is also of interest as a priority area and would benefit residents for that area of town but is not designated for parks at this time. The nearby large housing community currently in construction would also create a large user base.

Rebecca Sayers, Parks and Recreation Director, recommended formulating a list of the top priorities to bring to the Committee for Council, not just for new parks, but also addressing the needs of the rest of parks and recreation such as addressing aging facilities and amenities. A strong list of needs and priorities would be helpful going into the Committee with Open Space. It was discussed that the Christensen project may need to be placed as a higher resource requirement on the impact/resource matrix. The Commission discussed that it may be worthwhile to do an archeological study to determine if there is an issue with that site. That study would answer the question of whether to move forward with that project. The Clay Basin was discussed, and Sayers noted that there is not yet a concept plan of what can be built there and because it is not designated for Parks, there would need to be work with internal partners throughout the city to get the area designated as park land.

The Commission reviewed the discussion from their July meeting regarding the \$2.8 million available for land acquisition for the Lake Mary area and Christensen area. In order to use those funds elsewhere, voters would likely need to be asked to approve the project as a ballot issue. For the ballot measure, it might be better to focus on the higher resource areas such as Lake Mary and Clay Basin and facilities.

Sayers reminded the Commission of other needs for Parks and Recreation that could be considered in the upcoming discussion with Open Space. For example, Parks and Facilities Maintenance Sections share their current space at Thorpe Park and were originally slated to move out to the new Core Services Maintenance Facility with the rest of Public Works. Some of the bond could go toward completing that project. Other potential areas of need include remodeling and/or expanding existing recreation centers, equipment replacement, and new amenities such as a lap pool, a splash pad, etc. Some of these upgrades may be able to be planned with the ongoing \$500,000 per year available through the BBB tax, but higher priced equipment and remodels will require higher level funding.

The Commission discussed the need for estimates for completion of the various projects. Sayers said that the Flagstaff Open Space, Parks, and Recreation (FOSPR) citizen group that put together

priorities and costs could be a good resource. The Commission discussed which locations would be closer possibilities toward completion and talked about leaving Lake Mary out of the list since costs could not be determined. Sayers reported that Cheshire might be the easiest to develop, and Continental has concept drawings from 2002 that may need updating. Clay Basin would need the land allocated to Parks. The previous Public Works Yard at Mogollon will have some demolition of buildings within the next couple of months. Sustainability is now located in one of the buildings. That property may not be ready for the bond discussion as outreach to the public is being requested by City Council for this fall.

In summary, the Commission will continue to discuss bond priority projects at the next meeting on September 16, 2019. The Commission requested staff to start a cultural resource study for the Christensen parcel so that they can make more informed decisions about that park land.

6. REPORTS

Monthly Highlights of Parks – No questions or discussion

Monthly Highlights of Recreation – No questions or discussion

Monthly Highlights of Open Space – No questions or discussion

7. INFORMATION ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Sayers let the Commission know that, along with the City Council creating this bond committee, they will also discuss assigning a Council liaison for many Commissions in an upcoming Council meeting.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 MEETING

Discussion and prioritization of Parks and Recreation needs related to the upcoming Council Committee on Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.