

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of July 9, 2013

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**LOCATION:** 234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carl Yoshioka, Jack Stapley, Anne Lynch, and Rod Jarvis

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Robert Branch

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Donna Southard, Recorder; Michele Kogl, Planning and Development Manager; Aimee Upon, Administrator; Rand Hubbell, Park Supervisor; Kim Richard, Volunteer Coordinator; Emily Miller, Contract Administrator; Leigh Johnson, Parks Planner; and Betsy Pregulman, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney

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The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the July 9, 2013, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Carlton Yoshioka, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.**

**ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE April 9, 2013, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Carlton Yoshioka, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM**

- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Jarvis seconded to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2013, meeting as presented. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion was approved.

**ITEM # 4 - DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM**

- Ms. Waller provided highlights of the Director's Summary to the Commission. Highlights included the start of the due diligence process by CHM for the Lake Pleasant Commercial Development area; Parks has been approached by a development group for a possible theme park at Adobe Dam Regional Park; three employees recently retired from the Parks Department; total hours worked by park volunteers and hosts have exceeded 90,000 hours through the end of May for Fiscal Year 2013; the water supply system upgrade project at White Tank Regional Park is currently out to bid; staff is waiting on a permit to begin the RV dump station project at White Tank Regional Park; 7-Crew continues to work on the electrical hook ups at the White Tank campgrounds; of the 24 septic tanks at Lake Pleasant, staff worked on repairs and coordinated pumping for 17 units; staff is currently working with Maricopa County Facilities Department to provide an overall assessment for the restrooms and septic systems at Lake Pleasant which will result in a comprehensive maintenance plan; June's attendance at the Desert Outdoor Center's Aquatics and Nature Camp for the Boy Scouts exceeded last year's total by 12%; fundraising has begun by the Centennial Trail Committee for work on the Centennial Trail at Estrella Mountain Regional Park; over 400 participants braved the

112 degree temperatures and explored various recreational activities during Lake Pleasant's Adventure Day; McDowell Mountain Regional Park hosted the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona's bike race, drawing 280 participants for this first time event; Arizona Disabled Sports held the archery portion of their 2013 Desert Challenge Games at Utery Mountain Regional Park; staff continues to remove invasive weeds at each of the parks; and new kiosks have been installed at several of the trailheads within the parks.

**ITEM # 5 – Employee/Team of the Quarter – Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department - *PRESENTATION ITEM***

- Staff nominations included several employees for their exceptional customer service skills or additional assistance to cover work during position vacancies and one team was nominated for their can-do attitude to complete projects with limited resources. A certificate of recognition for her outstanding performance and lasting contributions was presented to Chris Simpson as the winner of the 2013's First Quarter Employee of the Quarter. Chris was selected for her consistent and outstanding customer service to internal and external customers. She was also recognized for her contributions to several department-wide programs including the POS system.

**ITEM # 6 – Employee Service Awards – Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *PRESENTATION ITEM***

- Ms. Waller recognized the following employees for their years of service and presented them with Maricopa County service pins: Michael Martinez, Trades Crew (5 years); Brennan Basler, Interpretive Ranger (5 years); Adam Melle, Interpretive Ranger (10 years); Bill Talboys (not in attendance), Interpretive Ranger (10 years); Rich Glinski, Park Supervisor (10 years); Jennifer Johnston, West Side Superintendent (10 years); Patty Sanford, Financial Analyst (15 years); and Bob Skaggs, Trades Crew (20 years).

**ITEM # 7 – Maricopa Trails Operations Plan: Adopt A Trail – Kim Richards, Volunteer Coordinator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM***

- The Adopt A Trail program was created to help and preserve the Maricopa Trails through the use of committed citizen volunteers. The program offers businesses, corporations, civic groups or individuals the opportunity to become involved in our park system. Applications are received and reviewed. Once approved, the applicant adopts a segment of the trail system for a two year period. The one time donation is applied to the sign recognizing the group or individual and will be placed at their adopted segment. The agreement requires an inspection of the adopted segment once every six months with trash pickup, complete minor trail repair if needed, and reporting any major hazards. Maricopa Trail and Parks Foundation has adopted the first completed segment with plans to adopt another segment in the future.

**ITEM # 8 – McDowell Mountain Regional Park Update – Rand Hubbell, Parks Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM***

- McDowell Mountain Regional Park is located in the northeast part of the county and is 21,099 acres in size. In 1958, the process to start the Maricopa County Regional Park system began with 19,000 acres of the current McDowell Mountain Regional Park lands. The master plan was completed in 1964 and is scheduled to be updated. The first competitive track within the county park system was built in McDowell Park in 1998. Along with the 14 miles of competitive track, the park has an additional 58 miles of multi-use trails. The vast acreage of the park allows for several special events hosting hundreds of participants to occur simultaneously.

**ITEM # 9 – Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for Estrella Sports Field Complex – Emily Miller, Contract Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM**

- An original Request for Proposal (RFP) to upgrade and expand the existing ball field complex at Estrella Mountain Regional Park was published in 2009 with no responses received. Renewed interest in this facility has prompted staff to issue an Intent to Negotiate (ITN) in lieu of an RFP. Staff feels that a non-profit or private concessionaire would be better equipped to fully utilize this 25.5 acre asset by offering multi-use fields. The intent is for the developer to incur all the costs of the upgrades with the County providing the infrastructure already in place.

**ITEM # 10 – Vulture Mountain Update and Possible Future Land Donation – Leigh Johnson, Park Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM**

- Ms. Johnson provided a brief update on the Vulture Mountain project. In April 2013, a notice to proceed was approved with the Maricopa County Library District to have an architectural contractor develop a conceptual plan at the Hassyampa Preserve site. Earlier this year, Parks was approached by an ASU PhD student to conduct a visitor center survey; results will be received mid-July. A management plan is being developed to assist as the day-to-day control is transferred to the Parks Department over a three to five year period. The Travel Management Plan for the Vulture Mountain area is scheduled to be completed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) later this fall. The application permit to allow a trestle crossing on the south side of the property has been denied by BNSF Railroad; an alternative crossing is being researched on the north side of the property. Staff is working collaboratively with BLM on trail alignments from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to BLM property; minimizing impacts on the desert tortoise and migratory bird habitats. BLM has determined the management partnership agreement needs to be changed from a CMA (cooperative management agreement) to an MOU (memorandum of understanding); the language essentially remains the same. Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has conducted stakeholder meetings to assist in the development of the access roads off of Vulture Mountain Road. One of the private land owners from a cooperative land ownership group contacted the Parks Department in February and expressed an interest in donating several parcels of land to the County for the Vulture Mountain project. A total of nearly five acres falls within the old Vulture City plat with some parcels providing direct access to Vulture Mine Road. The ownership group is currently working with the County Real Estate Department to complete the donation by the end of the year.
- Commissioner Lynch made a motion to accept the proposed donation from an ownership group, as currently represented by Mr. Tom Apkers, of all, or part of, 5 parcels of privately-owned land located within the Vulture Mountains Recreation Area, acceptance being subject to completion of all appropriate due diligence studies and legal reviews as required by Maricopa County with final acceptance predicated on Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approval. Commissioner Stapley seconded the motion. With all in favor, motion passed.

**ITEM # 11 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- None

**Item # 12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None

**Item # 13 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Stapley seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 am. All members were in favor and the motion was approved.

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Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager

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Carlton Yoshioka, Chair