

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of January 8, 2008

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Kusy, Salomon Leija, Anne Lynch and Randy Virden

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Laurel Arndt, Jack Stapley and District 4 (vacant)

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager, Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Penny Hatten, Purchasing Specialist; Constance Sinclair, Accounting Specialist; Amelia Sowers, HR Liaison; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator and Recorder; and Kevin Costello, County Counsel.

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the January 8, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m.

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

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2007 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Motion to approve minutes as written by Commissioner Virden, second by Commissioner Kusy.

ITEM #4 - DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Director Cardin is now working on the implementation of the El Rio project, reviewing design standards and looking to secure funding.
- The dock/construction dedication for Scorpion Bay Marina will be on January 17th at 1:00 p.m.
- Director Cardin briefly spoke on the budget, and asked Tina Allen to give a brief overview. December 3rd Parks received the fiscal year 2008/2009 budget information memo. The financial

revenue forecast for the county is well below expectations. Accordingly, there are a number of budget reduction expectations. As an example, there will be no new programming or capital requests allowed unless there is alternative funding. Budget reducing plans must be submitted by February 1, with a 5%, 10% and 15% increment to the general fund. January 3rd was the budget kick off meeting. It will be required this year that staff budget to the object code line item, with prioritization. All staff will have to be specific to list what types of supplies are needed and what priority items are wanted.

- Commissioner Leija asked for further information, at which time it was determined that a budget update will be added as an item on the February commission agenda.
- Skipper Marine is installing fiber optic communications and has offered to extend conduit to the operations center at Lake Pleasant.
- Construction is almost complete at Buckeye Hills Regional Park public shooting range. Parks is currently negotiating an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Buckeye for management of the facility. The Town of Buckeye is also considering using the facility for training for their police department during non-peak periods.
- Director Cardin noted all the awards that the department has received in the past year and gave kudos to all staff involved.

ITEM #5 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM*

- Director Cardin referred to the findings (1 through 4) on page one of the Director's Summary.
 - The number one finding is that the area has been degraded over the last five to ten years.
 - Finding two is that access to or near the water enhanced the outdoor experience for anyone that has been to the area and reasonable efforts need to be made to maintain controlled access in the future.
 - Finding three was clear that more on-site staff presence is required.
 - Finding four is that funding is required to implement the objectives of the plan and the area should continue to be closed until controlled access can be achieved.
- It is proposed to build an access road for Table Mesa area when that area of the Lake is not accessible from within Lake Pleasant.
 - An Environmental Assessment (EA) will need to be done, and the access road will need to be fenced off. Time frame for the EA is approximately six months.
- Director Cardin stated that though there are some that want the area to remain closed, the committee has come up with something that everyone can enjoy while maintaining the integrity of this conservation area. Grant funding will be critical to rapidly implement aspects of the plan.
- Commissioner Leija asked if there were archeological sites in the area near where the road would be. Director Cardin confirmed that there are some sites and the department is working with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). BOR has two archeologists on the Agua Fria Committee that will be making recommendations to preserve the sites that are there.

- Rod Lucas, with Arizona Game and Fish was introduced, asking to speak at the meeting. Mr. Lucas advised the Commission that the area is very important to their commission members as well, and their department agrees that the area is an important riparian habitat. Game and Fish will continue to manage the bald eagle area. Mr. Lucas encourages the County to support and adopt a fisherman's access on the north end for this area.

ITEM #6 – SET 2008 COMMISSION MEETING DATES – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission –ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Kusy moved to approve the dates as listed, second by Commissioner Leija.
- Commissioner Kusy moved to amend the motion to set a date to meet in March, the date being March 4th. Commissioner Virden seconded. The amendment was adopted.
- Commissioner Leija moved to amend to motion to change the November meeting date to November 12th. Commissioner Virden seconded. The amendment was adopted.
- The motion as amended was approved unanimously.

ITEM # 7– CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Commissioner Leija stated last year he had asked for information about undocumented park visitors at Estrella that were cited by park security or law enforcement. He wanted to follow up with that now. Director Cardin stated there were not any citations for undocumented citizens this past year that he was aware of and will report on this at the next meeting.

Item # 8 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None.

Item # 9 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Anne Lynch, Chair