

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of January 17, 2017

LOCATION: Flood Control Administration Building, Harquahala Conference Room, 2801 W. Durango Street, Phoenix, AZ 85009

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Branch, Anne Lynch, Megha Budruk, and Thomas Rhoades

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Rod Jarvis and Denise Merdon (District 5 Commissioner vacant)

STAFF PRESENT: RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager, and Betsy Pregulman, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the January 17, 2017, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Robert Branch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The regular meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

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

ITEM #3 – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that Anne Lynch (District 3) and Rod Jarvis (Member at Large) were reappointed for another two year term. Director Cardin welcomed Thomas Rhoades (District 2) who was appointed for a new two year term. The District 5 Commission position is currently vacant with a scheduled appointment by the Board of Supervisor's at their February 1, 2017 meeting.

ITEM #4 NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND NOMINATION OF 2017 OFFICERS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department and Rod Jarvis and Megha Budruk, Committee Members, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- Director Cardin informed the Commissioner that he, Commissioner Jarvis, and Commissioner Budruk met via email and are recommending Anne Lynch for the Chair position and Megha Budruk for the Vice-chair position for 2017.

ITEM #5 ELECTION OF 2017 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OFFICERS – Robert Branch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *ACTION ITEM*

- Chairman Branch commented that the Commission's role is to advise Parks on long-term plans for the citizens. In 2016, major milestones were reached through the Lake Pleasant Discovery Center renovations, the Hassayampa Agreement, and Vulture Mountain. Chairman Branch expressed his pleasure to have served as Chairman in 2016 and the commission's role in stewardship of the Maricopa County Park system.
- Commissioner Rhoades motioned and Chairman Branch seconded, to nominate Anne Lynch as Chair and Megha Budruk as Vice-chair for 2017. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

ITEM #6 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2016, REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *ACTION ITEM*

- Commissioner Branch motioned and Commissioner Budruk seconded to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016, meeting. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

ITEM #7 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Director Cardin reported that the Board of Supervisors proclaimed December 2016 as *Maricopa County Parks and Trails Month* and recognized Supervisor Andy Kunasek for his many years of dedication and proactive approach to protect Maricopa County’s natural and cultural resources for future generations.
- Other items approved by the Board of Supervisors included the revisions to the Parks Fee Schedule and the transfer of \$185,000 from District 3 to Parks to acquire easements and for trail development in the Daisy Mountain area and for future maintenance of the Maricopa Trail.
- The County Attorney and Real Estate Departments are working together with Parks and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to address some document language within the agreements prior to approval by the Board of Supervisors. Currently, Parks is managing the operations of the Hassayampa Preserve area under a license agreement with TNC.
- Other highlights included the department’s FY17 budget status; discussions with Desert Troon for possible expansion at Scorpion Bay; the dedication of the Andy Kunasek Trailhead at Spear S Ranch in December and the work done by the Trades and Trails crew to complete this renovation; the return of this season’s Park Hosts; and a recap of several large racing or other special events within the parks.

ITEM #8 – HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE UPDATE – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Director Cardin provided an overview of items being discussed in the Hassayampa Preserve documents including the commitment of future appropriations of funding, an easement on the north side of the property, the Conservation Easement language, and the dispute resolution process. The County remains optimistic that the outstanding issues can be resolved.
- The County and TNC have entered into a revocable license agreement for Parks to begin operating the Hassayampa Preserve site in January.

ITEM #9 – H₂OMG PRESENTATION – Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department and Patrick Stroud and Greg Cook, H₂OMG Festival – INFORMATION ITEM

- Ms. Waller introduced Mr. Stroud and Colonel Cook from H₂OMG Festival. Colonel Cook provided a brief overview of the upcoming festival scheduled to be held at Lake Pleasant in February 2017. The festival’s mission and objectives are to promote tourism, honor uniformed services, promote educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering & math (STEM) and manage hydroplane race events and entertainment.

ITEM #10 – FY18 PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Mr. Vonderscher provided a brief overview of the proposed FY2018 Capital Improvement Projects including APS power to Buckeye Hills; installation of water lines and an access gate at Cave Creek; continue current improvements at Estrella, McDowell, Usery and White Tank; San Tan’s Gold Mine Trailhead area; power and a small nature center at Spur Cross; parking, electrical and ET bed improvements at Lake Pleasant along with the Pipeline Trail bridge; and a new restroom and contact station at the Agua Fria Conservation Area.
- Director Cardin clarified that these projects are proposed and will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for final approval during the budget process utilizing fund balances in the Lake and Enhancement Fund along with some funds hopefully provided by the County’s General Fund. Parks has also been working with the County’s Facilities Department to complete some projects as their funding becomes available.

ITEM #11 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Commissioner Branch inquired about the status of the gun range at Buckeye Hills. Director Cardin stated the previous operator has agreed to continue operations on a monthly basis. An update will be provided to the Commission at the next regular meeting scheduled in March.
- Director Cardin informed the Commission that the Prickly Pedal mountain bike race is scheduled for the upcoming weekend, however the committee and staff are concerned about the prediction of rain. The rain could affect the safety of the riders and the maintenance of the trail.

Item #12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

Item #13 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Chair Lynch motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Branch. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.

RJ Cardin, Director

Megha Budruk, Vice-Chair