

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of February 10, 2009

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**LOCATION:** Estrella Mountain Regional Park Nature Center, 14999 W. Casey Abbott Drive, Goodyear, AZ 85338

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rod Jarvis, Anne Lynch, Joseph Marvin, Jack Stapley

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Salomon Leija, Carl Yoshioka

**STAFF PRESENT:** R.J. Cardin, Director; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Karen Truesdale, Administrative Supervisor; Rand Hubbell, Park Supervisor – McDowell; Carolyn Mayberry, Park Supervisor – Estrella; Allen Ockenfels, Trail Development Supervisor; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator and recorder; and Adrian Gough, County Attorney – Civil Division

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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 February 10, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

- Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

**ITEM # 3 – TOUR OF NATURE CENTER FOR COMMISSIONERS – R.J. Cardin, Director – Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *NO DISCUSSION NO ACTION***

Moved to the end of the meeting.

**ITEM # 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2009 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM***

- Commissioner Lynch, motion to approve the minutes as written - second by Commissioner Marvin.

**ITEM # 5 - DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- Budget – at this point the department has not yet been given a firm target from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors later this month. The department has been told to prepare for a 20 percent budget cut. Our first priority is to

focus on protecting our parks resources and maintaining those to the best of our abilities. Number two is preserving the customer experience and customer service. Those are the key areas to protect.

- The department has a significant fund balance in our Enhancement Fund that has been generated over the years by the accumulation of earned income (user fees and concession revenues). Referencing an article from the newspaper on February 9<sup>th</sup> about budget sweeps in Maricopa County, the County has to pay the state \$27 million in ALTCS (long term health care system) payments to the state. Part of the legislation that the state passed authorized the County to look at special revenue funds to pay that money. The Parks Enhancement Fund is one of those that have been tapped to pay it back. The department will be losing approximately \$980,000 from our special revenue Enhancement Fund balance. While these funds are not used for on-going department operating costs, it will limit the department in the future for capital improvements.
  - Commissioner Marvin asked if there was anything that they as Commissioners could do. Chair Stapley confirmed that it would be a few more weeks before the department is told the exact amount, but asked if there was anything they could do in the mean time. Director Cardin stated that if there are concerns it wouldn't hurt to contact your Supervisor to find out more information or ask questions.
- Usery was up 44% in their revenues, as are McDowell and San Tan. It appears more people are staying local for recreation and the parks staff is doing all they can do to bring the public in.
  - Agua Fria Conservation Area public meeting was February 4<sup>th</sup> and Jennifer Waller will update the Commission later in the meeting.
  - The Desert Outdoor Center participated in a recent bridal fair at the Phoenix Convention Center. Staff handed out over 400 10% off coupons and booked 12 wedding parties to take tours of the facility.
  - The grand opening for the Buckeye Shooting Range took place. The General Joe Foss Shooting Range, along with the Ensign John C. Butler rifle range are open and the facility is being used regularly now. There was a great turnout of over 100 for the grand opening ceremony.
  - Also the Grand Opening for Estrella Nature Center took place the end of January. Please note that in mid-March we will be doing the grand opening for the Cave Creek Nature Center.
  - Chair Stapley noted that he attended the General Joe Foss Shooting Range grand opening and the facility is fabulous and encourages everyone to visit the new facility.

**ITEM #6 – TRAIL AMENDMENTS – Allen Ockenfels, Trail Development Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM***

- McDowell Park Supervisor Rand Hubbell joined Allen for this item. They presented a map for review and reminded the Commission that a public meeting was held in May of 2008. There were 58 members of the public in attendance and 41 comments were received, before during and after.
- Mr. Ockenfels briefly reviewed the proposed trail amendments (1-12) for McDowell Park.
- Amendments 5, 8, 10 and 11 were not recommended for the final proposed amendments.

- Commissioner Lynch made a motion to approve and recommend to the Parks and Recreation Department Director, the amended trail plan for McDowell Mountain Regional Park in accordance with the Trails Management Manual. Second by Commissioner Jarvis.
- Director Cardin advised the Commission that these amendments are only for McDowell Park and this is a part of our main master plan.
- Commissioner Lynch withdrew her motion, - since the public has not yet been addressed.
- Steve Twist from Scottsdale is here on behalf of the American West Quarter Horses. They support the proposed trail amendments, especially the equestrian trails and the trail at 150<sup>th</sup>. Would also like to put on the record that their ranch, American Quarter Horses would like to financially support the amendments.
- Roy Kinsey from Fountain Hills is speaking on behalf of the Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills. The Conservancy is in support of the recommended amendments that were heard today. They are grateful for the opportunities the proposed amendments offer. They are eager to offer their conservancy trail workers to help with the work at McDowell Mountain Park.
- Bill Myers from Fountain Hills is here on behalf of the Fountain Hills Preservation Commission. Is here to support the proposed amendments, especially amendment 1. Mr. Myers agrees and supports Mr. Kinsey statements.
- Commissioner Lynch remakes the motion previously stated, with a second by Commissioner Jarvis. All in favor; none opposed.
- **ITEM #7 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING OF THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department –*INFORMATION ITEM***
- A copy of a letter from the Bureau of Reclamation was handed out to the Commissioners.
- Mrs. Waller reminded the Commissioner of the February 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting to present the short and long term plans for the Agua Fria area. Comments will be received until February 20. She also stated that the department is very pleased with the project and that the final Environmental Assessment will be done by June 1.
- Director Cardin followed up that the shareholders group was disappointed with the public turnout to the final meeting, as hundreds of emails were sent and other notices.

**ITEM # 8 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- None

**Item # 9 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None.

Chair Stapley pointed out a poster in the Nature Center and stated that he was not aware of the State Mammal or the State amphibian. He encouraged everyone to look around the Nature Center.

Chair Stapley also noted the upcoming public meetings for the Strategic System Master plan. The first few meetings will be next week - February 17 for District 4, February 18 for District 2 and February 19 for

District 3. The last week of the month will be the last 2 meetings – February 24 or District 1 and February 25 for District 5. He asked that each Commissioner at least attend the public meeting for their District.

**Item # 10 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Tour of Nature Center conducted by Director Cardin - Commissioner Stapley, Lynch and Jarvis along with County Attorney Gough participated in the tour.

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R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

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Jack Stapley, Chair