

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of April 14, 2009

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Laurel Arndt (9:30 a.m.), Rod Jarvis, Salomon Leija (9:10 a.m.), Anne Lynch, Jack Stapley, Carl Yoshioka

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**STAFF PRESENT:** R.J. Cardin, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; 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 April 14, 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 9:00 a.m.

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

**ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2009 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM***

- Commissioner Lynch motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Commissioner Yoshioka.

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

- Director Cardin gave the Commissioners a copy of the budget memo that was recently distributed to staff. He noted that approximately 50% of the department's general fund budget was cut. He also stated that the state still has not completed their budget.

- Commissioner Lynch asked how much of our enhancement fund was taken for the one-time fund sweep. Ms. Allen stated that the Budget Office took approximately \$900,000, about 35% of our FY09 beginning fund balance.
- The annual host appreciation day was held at Usery Mountain Regional Park on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to staff that contributed.
- The Invisible Ranger program at White Tank is doing very well, with our limited staff this is a very innovative way to reach the public.
- Lake Pleasant has been working with Arizona Clean and Beautiful to start a recycling program. Once established there, the department will look to expand the program at all park locations.
- The grand opening at the Cave Creek Nature Center was held. The new amphitheater was full, as over 150 people were in attendance. Thank you to everyone that attended and helped with the opening.

**ITEM #5 – ARIZONA HERITAGE FUND AND ALLIANCE – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM***

- Director Cardin reminded the Commission of the presentation at the March meeting where the department was asked to sign a letter that would be going to the State Legislature in support of the Arizona Heritage Fund.
- Commissioner Lynch asked, ‘since the Legislature is still in session is the Heritage Fund still in jeopardy?’ Director Cardin stated that the Fund is still in jeopardy.
- Chair Stapley asked for staff recommendation. Director Cardin stated the department is in support as the Heritage Fund has helped the department many times through its grant program.
- Commissioner Leija motioned to recommend signing the letter in support of the Arizona Heritage Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Yoshioka. All in favor; none opposed.
- County Counsel spoke up to question the advisory board’s capacity to sign such a recommendation or whether it should proceed to the Board of Supervisors for formal approval. County Counsel advised that the motion go forward, and that he would research the motion and get back with the department if there needed to be changes.

**ITEM #6 – ARIZONA MOVING AZ ONE – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *PRESENTATION/INFORMATION ITEM***

- Director Cardin stated that on May 16, 2008 he had a chance to participate in the ‘The Reality Check’ conference held by Arizona Moving Az One. The conference was a planning exercise to look at the next few years at the population that will likely double by the year 2050 and how we handle the population increase. How do we develop the community and make it sustainable? A couple of the top priorities were transportation and preservation of open space, park land and trails. The group has been going out promoting and doing presentations and he thought the presentation would be good for the Commission to see and be aware of. He introduced Steve Betts.
- Mr. Betts, CEO of SunCor Development is co-chair for Arizona Moving Az One steering committee and is a former Parks and Recreation Department Commissioner. A Regional Visioning process was launched; involving defining core values, analyzing alternative scenarios and selecting a vision for growth. He played a brief video presentation and then began a power point presentation.

- During the first meeting in May, 2008 a 'Lego Exercise' was completed with all participants.
  - Three common scenarios were determined:
    - First; compact mixed use development – a very dense urban core.
    - Second; Vibrant town center focus – a 'series' of downtown areas.
    - Third; Polycentric urban center – form urban areas outside of downtown areas, spreading out the city. Similar to a hub and spoke concept.
  - Key findings from the meeting were transportation, housing, open space, location of growth/growth patterns, State Trust Land and employment centers.
  - The first 'Reality Check' took a long time, doing a lot of research. Discovering what people want in our region; this is where the process is at now.
- Commissioner Lynch asked if emergency services were considered. Mr. Betts stated; yes, emergency services were included in each scenario.
- Chair Stapley asked about water and water conservation. Mr. Betts advised that water was considered.
- Director Cardin commented with trails and open space being a big part of the findings, he did not see a cost to preserve nor maintain open space included in the presentation. Mr. Betts noted that the steering committee has been working on that. Amanda Wilfert, presenting with Mr. Betts, stated that those costs are much harder to determine with land prices varying.
- Mr. Betts stated they are always looking for people to participate in the meetings and conferences. He invited the commissioners to contact him with questions. The next meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**ITEM #7 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION/INFORMATION ITEM**

*Item Cancelled – No update at this time.*

**ITEM #8 – WHITE TANK LIBRARY AND NATURE CENTER – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION/INFORMATION ITEM**

- Director Cardin advised the Commission the department has been working with the Library District again for a library and nature center at White Tank. Current location plan is the entrance area of White Tank Regional Park.
- Part of the agreement the department would have with the Library District is to transplant all plants and that there will be minimal damage to the area.
- The Library District is still discussing information with the Board of Supervisors. Construction funds are there, but it is still to be determined if operating dollars are available.
- Commissioner Marvin asked about offices for park staff. Director Cardin advised there would be three offices for staff, as well as a place for animal exhibits, a meeting room and retail space.

- Director Cardin advised that the land is patented to us by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The department reviewed the library and nature center with BLM. As a library facility was part of the original master plan, BLM is concurring with this project.

**ITEM # 9– CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Commissioner Leija asked if the Grant Coordinator position is gone. Director Cardin affirmed the position has been deleted. The department as a whole will continue to look at and review any grants available.
- Commissioner Lynch stated that the Fee Subcommittee meeting will be on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Tina Allen handed out a posting notice with the location to the Commissioners.
- Chair Stapley gave a meeting reminder for the May Commission meeting. The meeting is at the new Cave Creek Nature Center at 10:00 a.m.

**Item # 10 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None.

**Item # 11 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

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R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

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Jack Stapley, Chair