

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of September 14, 2010

LOCATION: Maricopa County Parks and Recreation
234 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Fischer, Jack Stapley, Carl Yoshioka, Rod Jarvis

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Lynch, Joseph Marvin, Salomon Leija

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent; Tom Timmons, Contract Administrator; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Specialist; Barbara Lehner, Recorder

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the September 14, 2010 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Jack Stapley, Acting-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 AUGUST 10, 2010 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jack Stapley, Acting-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM*

- Member Rod Jarvis motioned to approve the August 10 minutes as written. Seconded by Member Carlton Yoshioka. The vote was unanimous and the motion was approved.

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

- Director Cardin announced the opening of the McDowell Mountain Pump Track which was developed by volunteers.
- The White Tank Nature Center is near completion with a grand opening event scheduled for November 13, 2010.
- A triathlon usually held at Tempe Town Lake is being moved to Lake Pleasant because of the Tempe dam burst.
- The Desert Outdoor Center had a steady flow of boy scouts during the summer.

- Director Cardin brought the Commission's attention to the horse round up at McDowell. Acting-Chair Jack Stapley questioned where the horses came from and how many were involved. Director Cardin stated an individual owned 30-40 horses which entered the recreation area through open areas in the park fence. This can impact the natural resources of the area. Kevin Costello will investigate any legal recourse for the department.

ITEM #5 – PARK SYSTEM SIGN PROGRAM – Roxanna Rojo, Project Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – PRESENTATION ITEM

- A PowerPoint presentation of the signage manual developed by ASU intern Kari Hackney was presented. Signage on the roads and in the parks help to increase visitor satisfaction and revenue by promoting popular destinations i.e., waterfalls and wind caves. Ms. Hackney inventoried all park and roadside signage compiled a GIS database and developed a uniform sign manual.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the sign manual as the park system's guide for new signs and sign replacement.

ITEM #6 – BUDGET UPDATE – Aimee Upton, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION ITEM

- Ms. Upton reported the Fiscal Year End results to the commission.
 - The Enhancement Fund ended the fiscal year reporting revenues at 10.5% or \$360,720 over the approved budget. Enhancement Fund ended the fiscal year reporting operating expenditures at 5% or \$167,392 under the approved budget with the largest increases at Usery and Adobe because of the added fee costs and personnel savings.
 - The General Fund ended the fiscal year reporting operating expenditures \$42.84 under the approved budget. There are no revenues collected within the General Fund.
 - The Lake Fund ended the fiscal year reporting revenues at 9.7% or \$171,183 over the approved budget. Lake Fund ended the fiscal year reporting operating expenditures at 6.4% or \$120,868 under the approved budget. Most of the realized savings accrued from fuel costs, utilities savings and personnel.

ITEM #7 – AGUA FRIA/FRENCH CREEK UPDATE– Jennifer Waller, Westside regional Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION ITEM

- Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department have signed a management agreement provide primitive and controlled access to the Agua Fria Conservation area.
- There is a baseline vehicle count study being done along Castle Creek Road by Maricopa County Department of Transportation at no cost to the Parks Department. Vehicle counts will be done every Tuesday for one month and will provide data on vehicle traffic both in and out of the park entrances.

ITEM #8 – VULTURE MOUNTAIN UPDATE – Kristen Mohamed, Parks Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- There has been one public meeting in Wickenburg regarding the park development. Public interest and opinion/opposition is being reviewed. There were no major concerns presented by the public at the meeting. Experience has taught us that motorized vehicle use has some public opposition. Designating a managed motorized area may be necessary to control the environmental impact.
- EPG Consulting has been hired to help identify and examine vegetation, wildlife, cultural, historical and prehistoric items in the area.

- The Arizona State Mine Inspector is currently doing a mining survey for completion in December. The surrounding areas are owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) and some private landowners.
- The existing recreation facilities will be used to help MCPRD develop future uses. Current uses are picnicking, camping, equestrian, OHV riding trails, wildlife viewing, shooting/archery and a future nature and interpretive center.
- Commission Member Heidi Fischer expressed her concern over historical sites including homesteads and archaeological sites. Jennifer Waller stated that these are the sites BLM is identifying and examining for impact.

ITEM # 9 – ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK GOLF COURSE – Tom Timmons, Contract Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- Work has begun on the cosmetic improvement at Estrella including trimming of trees, painting, and over seeding will start in September. The defaulted borrower's lender Textron has appointed Synergy, a Reno Nevada based company with solid experience, to take over management of the golf course. The current contract runs through 2027
- Paradise Valley will have a new concessionaire starting in February 2011.
 - Acting Chair Stapley requested that staff monitor assets for safeguarding. He questioned if the length of our contracts and the renewal fall in line with comparable courses around the nation. Director Cardin stated our revenues on the courses were better than many comparable courses in the U.S.
 - Acting Chair Stapley requested regular inspections of each course in the hopes that this would help them be maintained to a high standard.

ITEM # 10 - CALL TO THE COMMISSION – Jack Stapley, Acting Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- None

ITEM # 10 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

Item # 11 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Jack Stapley, Acting Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Salomon Leija, Chair / Joe Marvin, Vice-Chair