

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of August 10, 2010

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Fischer, Rod Jarvis, Salomon Leija, Anne Lynch, Joe Marvin, Jack Stapley, Carl Yoshioka

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Tom Timmons, Contract Administrator; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent; Don Harris, Lake Pleasant Park Supervisor; Pam Ueckerman, Lake Pleasant Contact Station; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Kristen Mohamed, Park Planner/Trails; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Specialist and Recorder; Kevin Costello, Attorney – County Office of General Litigation

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the August 10, 2010 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Salomon Leija, 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 JULY 13, 2010 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Motion to approve the minutes as written by Commissioner Lynch. Seconded by Commissioner Stapley.

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

- Moonlight hikes and early morning programs have been well attended at all the parks, including Nature Center programs.
- Lake Pleasant is in the process of completing business plans for fitness. This process/plan will help obtain the costs of programs.
 - Lake Pleasant is currently working with Cabela's on park programs, consisting of a class at Cabela's and then the activity at Lake Pleasant. A recent class with the 'Cabela's University' had a limit of 125 and 160 showed up. Forty people were put on a waiting list.

- Director Cardin shared the weekly report on the White Tank Nature Center. The Nature Center is nearly complete.
 - Commissioner Fischer asked who was performing the air quality testing at White Tank. Director Cardin advised that he would check on and let know at the next meeting.
- Director Cardin gave a brief overview of the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).

ITEM #5 – EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *PRESENTATION ITEM*

- Chris Simpson is the Office Assistant at Cave Creek Regional Park. Chris had done a great job at the new Nature Center. As well Chris did a great job at the Desert Outdoor Center where she worked for many years. Chris is the Employee of the Month for May. Thank you.
- Pam Ueckerman is a Contact Station Attendant at Lake Pleasant and along with Tom Rychik share the Employee of the Month for June. Both work at the Lake Pleasant entry stations. They took on a big project this summer and four Saturdays in a row went out in to the park to collect fees. During that time they issues warnings and were able to collect numerous fees. Tom could not be here today, as he was out camping with his son. Thank you both.

ITEM #6 – RESERVATION AND RELATED FEES – Aimee Upton, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM*

- Aimee Upton provided a handout with an overview of the fee update that included the press release that was issued.
 - An update from last month is that the department also added an amplified music permit charge to the fee schedule. This will now be included as an actual fee. It was previously charged via a special use permit.
- The plan to set the public hearings with the Board of Supervisors will be on Wednesday September 1st. Then the fees go before the Board of Supervisors on October 6th, with the Commissioners recommendation today.
- Commissioner Lynch moved to recommend the proposed reservation fees to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. Seconded by Commissioner Jarvis. All in favor none opposed.

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

- Director Cardin advised that Jennifer Waller was called out of town unexpectedly. He'll provide a brief update.
- The environmental assessment for the Agua Fria Conservation Area has passed, as noted at the last meeting. The management plan for the area was by the Director of the Bureau of Reclamation. The Arizona game and Fish Department must now sign the plan.
 - The AZGFD is now working on a scope of work for the area to begin construction of access facilities.
- The Castle / French Creek planning which is very similar to what was done for Agua Fria, has just started. The full planning process with the partners will take approximately eighteen months.

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

- Kristen Mohamed provided an updated on the Vulture Mountain Master Planning. The goal of the project is to develop a recreational area master plan. That will determine the future development for the area.
- In April the department hired EPG Consulting. They have been involved with the San Tan and Spur Cross Master Plans so they already have a good knowledge of the County Parks.
- EPG has been conducting stakeholder interviews that were identified by our planning team. They have started a recreation activity evaluation which will help determine the recreational needs in the area.
- In the coordinated effort there is also a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Trail plan. Our department has been working with their trail consultant on the Wickenburg Community Trail Plan. On Wednesday, June 9th – Director Cardin, Jennifer Waller and Kristen Mohamed attend a stakeholder meeting. One element that came out of the meeting and research found a lot of activity in the San Domingo and Monarch wash areas. There is a good need for a staging or possible trail head in those areas for those to then connect to the Vulture area.
- The location of the currently closed Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Hassayampa rest area on the 60 highway leads us to a meeting with ADOT. ADOT has options for the area and they would be willing to sell or lease the area to the Parks Department. Another meeting will set up to explore all options.
- Some of the next steps will be a fact finding trip to Salida, Colorado to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. That is a cooperatively managed site by the Colorado State Parks and the BLM. The area is their national model for a cooperatively managed recreation area. Parks and local BLM staff will tour the area to view their best practices and apply the knowledge gained in planning for the Vulture Recreation area.
- In September the department will be in Wickenburg to get input from local leaders.
- Commissioner Leija asked if there were still open mine area there. Director Cardin stated yes, the area is well over 40,000 acres. There are a number of open mines, some will remain open that are privately owned. Part of the lure to the area is the Arizona western culture that could be great for interpretation

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

- After the April meeting was held at Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Commissioner Stapley had asked about the Estrella Golf Course and its condition after he had taken a drive around the facility prior to the meeting.
- Mr. Timmons noted that the department concern for the facility begin a couple of years ago. The department began looking at many different areas and documenting deficiencies.
- Recently, the golf course has become insolvent and the concessionaire has turned his interest in the course over to Textron Industries who holds \$2m notes against the concessionaire's interest in the use management agreement.

- Mr. Timmons noted that Synergy currently manages about six golf courses at this time and was hired by Textron strictly as a management company. The existing contract goes until 2026 with a ten year renewal option.
- The department will be meeting with the new onsite manager of the management company/Synergy on Wednesday, August 15th. Synergy took over management of the facility on August 1st. There is a formal action item on the Board of Supervisors agenda for August 15th which recognizes the new assignment. Their first payment has been made in complete to the Parks Department.
- Kevin Costello clarified Tom's statement that Textron would be looking to sell, they would actually be selling their interest in the contract. Textron could recover their costs and then transfer the existing contract to a new company. Parks has the ability to approve new managers coming in prior to the assignment taking place.
- Mr. Timmons will provide an update and discuss all golf courses and agreements at the September meeting.

ITEM #10 – PARK ACCESS POLICY – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department –*INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM*

- At the last Commission meeting in July, Director Cardin requested the Commissioners review the Parks Access Policy and Matrix to discuss at the August meeting.
- Director Cardin stated the Department needed to address the access policy. The Access Policy has been created, which will also contain a matrix that will provide guidance in determining park access.
- Commissioner Fischer asked about item F within the Access Policy, if an example could be provided. Director Cardin advised of an archeological site that someone may want an access point near it. The department can say no due to an archeological site and could work with them for a viable solution.
- Commissioner Lynch moves to recommend that the Parks Department adopt the access policy and matrix to be used in determining appropriate access opportunities for the park system. Seconded by Commissioner Stapley. All in favor none opposed.

ITEM # 11– CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None

Item # 12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None.

Item # 13 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Item # 14 – CONVENE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Salomon Leija, Chair called the executive session meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Salomon Leija, Chair