

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of May 10, 2011

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Stapley, Anne Lynch, Carl Yoshioka, Heidi Fischer,

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jimmie Munoz, Joseph Marvin, Rod Jarvis

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Aimee Upton, Administrator;
Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Rand Hubble, McDowell Mountain Regional Park Supervisor; Debbie Lemon, IT Administration; 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 May 10, 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Carl Yoshioka, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE April 12, 2011 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Carl Yoshioka, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Stapley seconded the motion to approve the April 12, 2011 minutes as presented. All members were in favor 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 presented the Director's Summary. In addition to programs and events highlighted in the summary, other notable items were the Cave Creek host exchange from winter to summer staff; the kayaking program at the Desert Outdoor Center; Estrella Park's Day of the Spanish horse; Lake Pleasant's Dam Good Run and Cast for Kids; and the addition of 4 new camp sites at Ironwood campground.

ITEM #5 – LAKE PLEASANT VISITOR CENTER UPDATE – R.J. Cardin, Director - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- The Lake Pleasant Visitor Center was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) as a throw away building to be used during the construction of the Waddel Dam. The Park has used it as the visitors center with 700,000 – 800,000 people visiting since it opened. The BOR has agreed to partner with Parks to renovate the site and in return we will promote their organization along with displaying their historical and cultural displays. The BOR has set aside \$700,000 and Parks has set aside \$300,000 with an additional \$290,000 to be performed as in-kind services.
- The RFP for the project will be issued in August and selection will be made in September. Permitting within the County can take upwards of 6 months, putting the construction start date in

April 2012 with a completion date of September 2012. Vice-Chairman Yoshioka questioned if there would be diminished use of the center during the upgrades and Director Cardin stated yes.

- Commissioner Fischer questioned if it would be LEED certified and Director Cardin responded it would be either silver or gold LEED certified.

ITEM #6 – POINT-OF-SALE UPDATE– Aimee Upton, Administrator - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Ms. Upton provided an update of the Point-of-Sale system. Parks is in week five and the public feedback has been positive. There were 992 single site reservations inputted through the system over the last 5 weeks.
- Vice-Chairman Yoshioka asked about the cost impact including the call center person. Ms. Upton responded this was an established position now with added call center duties. The \$8 reservation fee is the only additional fee. This will help defer the costs of the POS build out and maintenance.
- Director Cardin pointed out that San Diego County has been using an on-line POS system for a year and they found that 70% of the people using it a year later do their camping reservations on-line.

ITEM #7 – MCDOWELL EQUESTRIAN UPDATE – Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Ms. Retterbush presented a PowerPoint presentation on the concerns the equestrians submitted via email and McDowell Mountain Regional Park's pro-active response.
- A public meeting will be held on June 23rd to take comments on proposed changes. The Park is inviting all user groups to participate in the planning process. Once a final plan is approved, rapid trail construction will begin.
- Director Cardin suggested enlarging the existing trail head parking by 75 yards and improving the 4 Peaks by adding a hard surface trail from the 4 Peaks into the Park. This would be accomplished by using an old road bed for a new trail. The 75 yard expansion would not effect the desert landscape because the area in question has been impacted by the public and there is no vegetation in that area. Both San Tan and McDowell need expanded parking lots and because of necessary equipment rentals it would be more cost effective to do both at the same time.
- Commissioner Stapley would like to see the issue resolved now and for the other parks, if it were to ever come up. He would also like research done on other parks systems that have equestrian usage and what they charge daily, per horse trailer etc.

ITEM # 8 - CALL TO THE COMMISSION – Carl Yoshioka, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – INFORMATION ITEM

- None

ITEM # 9 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- John Manes from the Arizona Horse Council addressed the Commission. The Board of Supervisors was contacted to develop equestrian facilities out at McDowell, so in his opinion the park was built for equestrian usage.
- Director Cardin asked Mr. Manes if today's remedies are adequate but Mr. Manes asked to withhold further discussion until the public meeting.
- Tracy House objected to charging equestrians more especially when Scottsdale Park has no fee charges. In her opinion, Shallmo Wash is not a good alternative for equestrians. They would prefer to have campers located at the competitive track or the Four Peaks staging area.

ITEM # 12 – ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Stapley motioned and Vice-Chairman Yoshioka seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m. All members were in favor and the motion was approved.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Carlton Yoshioka, Vice-Chairman