

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of September 16, 2014

LOCATION: 234 N. Central Avenue, 3rd Floor, Arizona Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: **Jack Stapley, Carl Yoshioka, Dr. Robert Branch, Anne Lynch, Rod Jarvis and Denise Merdon**

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Michele Kogl, Planning and Development Manager; Dawna Taylor, PIO; Aimee Upton, Administrator; and Betsy Pregulman, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the September 16, 2014, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

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

- The regular meeting was 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 15, 2014, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *ACTION ITEM*

- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Branch seconded to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2014, meeting as presented. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion was approved.

ITEM #4 – DIRECTOR SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM*

Commissioner Jarvis arrived at 9:05 am.

- Director Cardin informed the Commissioners that the Secretary of Interior, Sally Jewell, attended a Land Water Conservation Fund 50th anniversary event in Arizona on August 9th. After the event, Director Cardin was able to discuss with Ms. Jewell and her staff the various issues Parks has had working with Bureau of Land Management (BLM). On September 20th, Director Cardin will accompany Congressman Gosar on a tour around Lake Pleasant and will have another opportunity to discuss those issues.
- The Lake Pleasant Visitor Center reconstruction project has been approved. The Parks Department and the Bureau of Reclamation will each contribute 50% to the approximate 2,000 square foot expansion. Parks contribution of the nearly \$1 million project is funded through user fees accumulated above the allocated operating budget over the past several years, in-kind services and labor provided by department staff, a \$10,000 grant from Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the City of Peoria will contribute a landscaping project of \$25,000.
- Denise Merdon joins the Commission from District 1 and currently works at the City of Gilbert's Parks and Recreation Department.

- Finance staff is working with Procurement Services on a Scope of Work for a fire alarm repair/replacement at the Desert Outdoor Center (DOC) and an RFP for a possible new point of sale system.
- Contract updates include the completion of the removal of the inoperable solar system at the DOC at no cost to Parks. The Use Management Agreement with Estrella Youth Sports for reconstruction and installation of fields continues to move forward. Severe storm damage occurred at the Paradise Valley Golf Course and at Casey at the Bat. Insurance claims were filed. Parks will monitor repairs to each of the facilities to ensure the funds are being used appropriately. Adobe Dam retention water peaked about 14 feet in the back part of the park during the storm.
- Parks is hopeful that approval will be coming soon from BLM to begin the environmental assessment followed by the patent/lease process for the Vulture Mountain Park area.
- Commissioner Branch inquired about the status of an RFP for Wi-Fi in the park. Administrator Aimee Upton informed the Commissioners that an RFP did go out. The only submitted request included an outlay of monies to cover some of the infrastructure costs by Parks. Due to current budgeting, it is not feasible to move forward at this time, but will be considered again in the future.

ITEM #5 – EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION ITEM

- Director Cardin recognized Larry Beil (5 years) and Kyle Randall (10 years) for their years of service and presented them with a Maricopa County service pins.

ITEM #6 – MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT’S NACO AWARD – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION ITEM

Commissioner Merdon arrived at 9:24 am.

- Director Cardin presented a brief history of the National Association of Counties awards program. This year, Maricopa County received 34 awards overall, tying San Diego County for the most awards for any county in the United States. Parks submitted the 100-Miles in 100 Days program, receiving an achievement award. The challenge was completed by 142 participants with the bulk of the participants consisting of family teams. The committee members were recognized.

ITEM #7 – ARIZONA STATE CAPITAL MALL PARK DISTRICT UPDATE – John Driggs, Chairman, Arizona Capital Centennial Committee – INFORMATION ITEM

- This item was tabled until a future date.

ITEM #8 – LAKE PLEASANT TRAIL SYSTEM UPDATE – Alan Ockenfels, Trails Supervisor, and David Jordan, Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Mr. Ockenfels provided an update on the progress of the Lake Pleasant trails. The Trails Crews, with the assistance of the Arizona Conservation Corps, completed three new trails: the Cottonwood Trail, the Yavapai Point trail, and the Wild Burro Trail. Mr. Ockenfels provided an overview of the construction process, trail ratings and connections/loops. Mr. Jordan informed the Commissioners of upcoming planned trails and announced the trails dedication ceremony will be held on Sunday, November 16th.

ITEM #9 – FY 14 YEAR-END BUDGET UPDATE – Aimee Upton, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Ms. Upton provided a brief overview of the final year-end financial figures; system wide, actual revenues were above the forecasted revenue amounts and operating expenditures were under budgeted. FY14 concerns were reviewed (reduction in general fund monies; increased allocations for Risk, RDSA, OET; staff raises/market adjustments; and an aging system). Many of these same challenges will likely occur in FY15 budgeting.

ITEM #10 – FY15 PLANNED PROJECTS OVERVIEW – Brad Reed, Project Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Mr. Reed provided a brief overview of the upcoming planned capital improvement projects during fiscal year 2015: Lake Pleasant Visitor Center Upgrades and water tank cleaning; San Tan Park water project; White Tank electrical upgrade; Desert Outdoor Center fire alarm project; system-wide ramada, playground, septic tank and restroom upgrades; Cave Creek group campground design and water line project.

ITEM #11 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None.

Item #12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Mr. Brian Murphy, West Valley Trail Alliance, commends the Trails Crew on their work done in the Estrella Mountain Regional Park and would like to propose a public/private partnership with Newland Communities, the City of Goodyear, and Maricopa County Parks to improve and build new trails in Estrella Park. Staff will follow-up with Mr. Murphy.

Item #13 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Commissioner Branch motioned and Commissioner Jarvis seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 am. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion was approved.

RJ Cardin, Director

Jack Stapley, Chair