

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of March 12, 2013

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Yoshioka, Jack Stapley, Dr. Robert Branch, and Rod Jarvis

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Lynch

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Donna Southard and Debbie Lemon, Records; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Michele Kogl, Planning and Development Manager; Aimee Upon, Administrator; Darci Kinsman, Park Supervisor; David Jordan, Park Supervisor; Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager; 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 March 12, 2013, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

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

- Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present. Commissioner Jarvis joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE February 12, 2013, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Carlton Yoshioka, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Stapley motioned and Commissioner Branch seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2013, meeting as presented. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion was approved.

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

- Director Cardin presented highlights of the March Director's Summary.
 - The Lake Pleasant Resort and Commercial Development continues as staff drafts a Pre-Development Agreement with Red Rock Investors. In addition, two amendments are being drafted with the Bureau of Reclamation to add additional property to the park along Highway 74 for the commercial development. To assist staff develop and negotiate the development agreement with Red Rock, a bid has been received through the Request for Proposal process to hire a consultant to represent the County in contract development and negotiations.

- As a result of projected lower property tax collections for FY14, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has recommended the reduction of the Parks Department general fund budget by approximately \$550,000. The 55% general fund allocation will be partially off-set with park revenues that have increased over the past two years. Discussions are still in process with OMB.
- The department has started a refresh program to replace 24 computers. The department delayed replacement for several years due to budget constraints. Many of the current computers can not support the new software and operating systems.
- A process is underway to transition to a paperless revenue reporting system at all of our parks. This will increase efficiencies and reduce staff travel times.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held with approximately 100 volunteers in attendance. During this past year, volunteers worked over 50,000 hours; sometimes tripling staffing levels at our parks.
- A new merchandise program has been started that ties monthly retail displays to the interpretive programs at each of the parks. The new program has been well received by our park visitors.
- Staff has begun working with the Boy Scouts to develop their summer programming at the Desert Outdoor Center.
- Deferred maintenance issues are a major concern at many of the parks' facilities. A request has been submitted to the County's Facilities Management Department for an assessment of all the restrooms at the parks. Park visitors have continually stated that the restrooms are one the most important features in our parks.
- Each of our parks are reporting near full capacity at the campgrounds for the past month and will continue for another five to six weeks before attendance starts to taper off for the summer. The reservation system has helped staff by referring campers to other parks within our system if there is no availability at a particular campground.
- The Trails Crew has completed re-routing 4.5 miles of the Pemberton Trail and opened an additional 1.5 miles of new trails. Hiking is the most popular activity by our visitors.
- Other activities at our parks included the Cactus Classic Archery Tournament at Utery Park and the 3rd Annual Art Fair at White Tank Park.
- *Facebook* continues to be a popular method of communication for our Interpretive Rangers and park visitors.
- The Construction Crew continues working on the family campground at White Tank to make repairs and reopen the site. During the summer, the campground will be reclosed and electrical lines will be installed.
- Work continues on the Centennial Trail at Estrella Park by the Three Rivers Historical Society.

ITEM #5 – Awards Presentations – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – PRESENTATION ITEM

- Director Cardin recognized the following employees for their years of service and presented them with Maricopa County service pins: Mark Paulat, Interpretive Ranger (5 years); David Chatfield, Trails Crew (5 years); Michael Martinez, Trades Crew (5 years); and Jeffrey Gruver, Trades Crew (10 years).

ITEM #6 – Arizona State Capital Mall Park District – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation and John Driggs, Chairman, Arizona Capital Centennial Committee – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Mr. Cardin was approached by Mr. Driggs in December with a historic preservation park concept. The vision is to have the City of Phoenix, the State of Arizona and Maricopa County cooperatively work together to make this area a destination type project.

- Mr. Driggs presented a draft plan/whitepaper to create a historic corridor from the State Capitol along Washington Street to the Tovrea Castle. The goal is to have the land dedicated to form a state park within Maricopa County. The “Arizona Second Century Initiative” would be funded through private partnerships with no state monies used. At this point in time, a formal committee has not yet been established. Mr. Driggs is requesting that the Commission endorse this project at an upcoming meeting.
- The Commission suggested that staff do further research and bring this back at a future date.

ITEM #7 – Cave Creek Mountain Regional Park and Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Update – Darci Kinsman, Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- PowerPoint presentations were shown for each park.
 - Cave Creek Park is 2,922 acres with four pre-historic and four historic sites recorded by the Archeology Research Center. Picnics, camping, hiking and horseback riding are popular activities. The park hosts annual run and bike races utilizing the trail system.
 - Spur Cross Ranch consists of 2,154 acres of a limited use conservation area with 12 miles of trails for hikers and horseback riders. A trail camera was installed five years ago to monitor the wildlife at the Solar Oasis pond.

Commissioner Jarvis left at 10:22 am.

ITEM #8 – Lake Pleasant Regional Park Update – David Jordan, Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- This presentation was postponed to the April 9, 2013, meeting.

ITEM #9 – Maricopa Trail Construction Update – Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- The vision is to connect all county parks through a trail system. The project started in 2006 with 35 segments planned and 369 miles of trails. To date, six of the nine parks are connected. An additional 27 miles will be completed this year and is currently on schedule and under budget. The projected completion date is in 2016. Once Vulture Park is officially dedicated, a trail from Lake Pleasant to Vulture Park will be upgraded to priority one status in the plan.

ITEM # 10 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None

Item # 15 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

Item # 16 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Commissioner Stapley motioned and Commissioner Branch seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 am. All members were in favor and the motion was approved.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Carlton Yoshioka, Chair