

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of April 10, 2012

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**LOCATION:** 234 N. Central Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rod Jarvis

**STAFF PRESENT:** R.J. Cardin, Director; Kevin Costello, Maricopa County Attorney Office; Barbara Lehner, Recorder

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The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the April 10, 2012 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

- The 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 FEBRUARY 14, 2012 COMMISSION MEETING – Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *ACTION ITEM***

- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Marvin seconded the motion to approve the 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 a few highlights from the April Director’s Summary.
  - The County Employee discounted annual pass has proved to be very popular and in the future this offer may be extended to large corporations and Arizona State University
  - The annual Host Appreciation Day was held at a Spring training baseball game at Surprise stadium and our hosts were very appreciative of their recognition
  - Hands on Greater Phoenix assisted in completing the desert tortoise habitat at Cave Creek
  - The Stargazing program at the Desert Outdoor Center had over 303 participants last month
  - Estrella hosted the annual Hike for the Homeless and a new annual event the Gladiator Rock-n-Run Mud Run
  - McDowell held their first Hike for the Homeless
  - There were three separate Eagle Scout projects at San Tan Mountain Regional Park
  - Chair Stapley commended the Parks use of Eagle Scouts and encouraged utilizing them as much as possible in the future

**ITEM #5 – CITY OF PHOENIX INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – R.J. Cardin, Director - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- Parks has entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix
  - One of the many benefits is the cost savings of using their Certified Playground Inspector for our Parks

- Chair Stapley inquired if training was offered locally
- Director Cardin stated this year training was available in New Mexico and California so it's more cost effective this year to use the Phoenix inspector
- An additional benefit of the IGA is the ability to have the use of each others facilities for meetings etc.

**ITEM #6 – PEORIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – R.J. Cardin, Director - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- Parks has also entered into an IGA with the City of Peoria which will benefit the development of commercial areas in and around Lake Pleasant
  - Peoria is willing to help with the soft costs such as an environmental assessment and in return Parks will provide the land already set aside in our Master Plan

**ITEM #7 – PARK COMMISSION BY-LAWS – Jack Stapley, Chair - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- Chair Stapley had requested the Commissioners and Vice-Chair review the Parks Commission by-laws to determine if they were in line with current goals or needed to be updated.
  - Chair Stapley pointed out the by-laws are important because
    - They define the importance and roles the Commission plays in decisions made about the Parks
    - Chair Stapley asked the Commission to consider 'how often have we recommended policy
  - Chair Stapley recommends a committee be created to review the current fees schedule
  - Vice Chair Yoshioka has good relationships with the National and State Associations dedicated to parks and recreation
  - Chair Stapley will draft a letter to District 5 Board of Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox on the importance of her district being represented at the Parks Commission meetings.
    - Commissioner Lynch noted the difficulty the Commission has reaching a quorum
  - Park Commissioners are appointed for two-year terms, but Chair Stapley would like the Commission to consider making it 3 or 4 years
- Director Cardin added that the most important role and responsibility of the Commission is for members to be connected to their local district and park and the Commission's input on all topics helps him provide enough information for the Commission to make informed decisions

**ITEM #8 – BLM PATENT/3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY CONCESSION ISSUES – R.J. Cardin, Director - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- Director Cardin met with representative from the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. to discuss BLM land concessions in our Parks under the Recreation and Public Purpose Act. He showed the presentation he gave during his trip showing how Maricopa County's Parks and Recreation concessionaires benefit the public
  - Chair Stapley asked how the Commission could help
  - Director Cardin responded that District 5 Board of Supervisor (BOS) Mary Rose Wilcox has been supportive and arranged the meeting. It would be beneficial to have the support of all Board of Supervisors
  - Chair Stapley asked if federal lobbyists are involved, Director Cardin confirmed they are actively involved
- Contract Administrator Mr. Timmons stated BLM is receptive to the Parks Department concerns

**ITEM #9 – BUDGET OVERVIEW – Aimee Upton, Administrator - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- Ms. Upton presented the end of the year budget review
  - On May 21, 2012 the Board of Supervisors will approve the final budget for Fiscal year 2013
  - Spur Cross is \$75,000 in the negative but the Town of Cave Creek will be increasing their annual payment to \$18,500 to help offset the loss

**ITEM #10 – ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN TRAIL MASTER PLAN** – Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent and Allen Ockenfels, Trail Development Supervisor - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ***INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- The draft trail master plan is open for public comments on our web site through May 4, 2012
  - Once all comments are received they will be presented to the Commission
  - Trail additions either connect or extend existing trails

**ITEM #11 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION** – R.J. Cardin, Director - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ***INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- Vice Chair Yoshioka stated there was a computerized program that analyzes one Parks data to another Parks which can be helpful to glimpse into what other systems are doing. He will look into it further and report back to the Commission.
  - Directed Cardin added that information would help set benchmarks for comparison
- Commissioner Marvin provided an update on the Maricopa County Parks and Trails Foundation
  - Two new board members have been recruited and the 501(c)3 is still being worked on
  - Commissioner Marvin appreciated the tour of Vulture Mountain Regional Park
- Chairman Stapley requests our Attorney confirm the protection we have when there is a park fatality. Are we insured if people have fatal accidents or are accidents covered through the County's insurance. He would also like confirmation that the Arizona Recreation Immunity Law protects our park system
- Chairman Stapley also asked about branding of the County Parks vs. the cities
  - Director Cardin noted the Parks Public Information Officer has made the distinction in our marketing plans and on the social media sites we use to promote our parks and programs

**ITEM #12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC** – Jack Stapley, Chair - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ***INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- None

**ITEM #13 – ADJOURNMENT**

- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Vice-Chair Yoshioka seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m. All members were in favor and the motion was approved.

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R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

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Jack Stapley, Chairman