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MEMORANDUM

Date: November 3, 2008
To: Parks and Recreation Department Commissioners
From: R.J. Cardin, Director
Re: **Director's Summary of Current Events**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J. Cardin".

Listed below are issues that the department has been involved with since the October 9, 2007 Director's Summary.

Superintendent Report

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area (SCRCA): Staff hosted a meeting with town officials and a legal delegation from China who chose Cave Creek among the several US locations on their itinerary to observe and ask questions about the nuances associated with an inter-governmental partnership as we have established here.

Usery Mountain Regional Park: October there were 24 interpretive programs performed with a total of 1,094 participants and 173 of those visitors were dedicated repeat attendees.

Super Scorpion Search was very successful bringing in 168 night explorers! Animal Hide and Seek Flashlight Hike drew 110 participants.

Revenues for October 08 increased by 17% up by \$4,770 from October 07.

Annual pass sales are well ahead of last year with a total of 241 passes sold so far for this fiscal year which reflects an increase in sales of 62 passes. 216 are regular passes, 25 are senior passes and 52 are archery passes. 96 passes were sold in October 08.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park: During the month of October, the park saw an increase in attendance of 51% and a 44% increase in revenue from this time last year.

In October, we offered a total of 7 programs to the delight of 548 program attendees. The most popular event of the month was our second annual Haunted HOWL-O-WEEN Bash, bringing out the likes of 253 scary monsters, friendly princesses and other costumed participants.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park: The new Interpretive Ranger for McDowell has been hired and her first day on the job is Tuesday, November 4th.

Donated sun screens were installed to provide shade for youth groups using the youth group area by the eastside Parks Maintenance Workers on their first maintenance project day. The next project is scheduled for Estrella and will involve removing dead trees from the turf area.

A second group of mountain bikers volunteered at the park on October 18th to help repair erosion on the Competitive Track before the busy race season. This group contributed nearly 100 hours of volunteer help.

Work continues on the Gila Monster habitat, the base is complete and the next step is to install the plexi-glass and a photograph on the back of the exhibit.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park: October there were 32 interpretive programs held with an attendance of 770 participants. New programs included an Audubon Bird Walk and Bug Theater with an entomologist.

The Dust Devil Series came to Estrella the weekend of October 11. There was a 145 % increase in participation with nearly 200 riders.

Employees of the City of Avondale selected Estrella Mountain Regional Park for the location of their annual "Make A Difference Day". On October 26 nearly 40 employees and their families came out to trim trees and bushes and remove weeds. They reported a real feeling of accomplishment.

Cave Creek Regional Park: There were 10 different interpretive programs this month. The most well-attended program was the "Creeping out" Moonlight Hike – on October 17th, which attracted 49 attendees.

Cave Creek hosted an exciting cooperative educational event for children in conjunction with the Phoenix Zoo. "Desert CSI", was held at Cave Creek on November 8th, 2008.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park: White Tank Park received an Award of Merit in Environmental Excellence from Valley Forward.

The Cactus Cha Cha run on Oct 11th was a big success. There were 380 runners and 200 spectators. On top of a great recreational event, the Cactus Cha Cha will donate the proceeds to White Tank Park.

Interpretive programs inside and outside of White Tank Park have educated 257 people in September and 628 in October.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park: Visitor Center - History talks and desert tortoise program continue to be successful; we are also beginning to schedule new programs for the amphitheater. The Visitor Center operational hours have been increased on weekends (7am to 7pm). Statistics show that 70% of guests at visitor center are new.

Bradshaw Foothills Coalition scheduled a Welcome Weekend for November 2, the members will be stationed at the old air strip off Cow Creek Rd. We will be distributing OHV information and that will educate the public of where OHV operations are legal as well informing them of what legal requirements are needed to operate their equipment.

National Public Lands Days - Families, individuals, scout groups, honor societies, corporations, dive groups, and area clubs comprised 50-60 divers and 184 additional volunteers. All received certificate of appreciation. Cleaned an estimated 27 miles (shoreline plus underwater) and collected approximately 4,805 pounds of trash. The five most common trash items were plastic beverage bottles (1,137), cigarette butts (1,044), aluminum beverage cans (924), caps and lids (895), and food wrappers (701).

Desert Outdoor Center (DOC): The DOC hosted the Boy Scout Venturing Powder Horns – for 2 weekends in October. The group has grown from 30 adults to about 50 adults – it is expected to generate more interest in the summer boy scout camps. (aquatic merit badge camp & trail to eagle).

Contract Updates

Adobe Dam: Fort Adobe Paintball: scheduled for tentative "soft opening" in November 2008.

Maricopa Adventure Island: transition went well between Harvest Family and Golfland re: Waterworld Safari; the preliminary permitting process has begun for the new waterpark; demolition of the existing facility is scheduled to begin the first week of November 2008. They offered approximately 35 picnic tables to the Maricopa County Homeless Campus and the parks.

Lake Pleasant: Marina permits issued for upland grading and electrical, fuel system and dock structures; inspections were occurring week of October 20th by County Planning and Development; inspection also required by City of Peoria for fire/safety in accordance with IGA with City. If all inspections satisfactory, the intent is for Planning and Development to issue a temporary Certificate of Occupancy.

Buckeye Hills: Entered into a Special Use Permit with Buckeye Hills Shooting Club for operation, management and maintenance of the public shooting complex; formal solicitation process for long-term management, operation and maintenance will be forthcoming within then next few months.

Coming and Going in Human Resources

The Contact Station Assistant positions (2), at Lake Pleasant have been filled effective start dates of October 6, and October 20. The Interpretive Ranger position at McDowell Park has been filled and the effective start date is November 3.

Interviews for the Park Office Assistant position at White Tank Regional Park were held on October 27.