

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of September 9, 2008

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurel Arndt, Rod Jarvis, Anne Lynch, Jack Stapley, Carlton Yoshioka

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Salomon Leija, Joseph Marvin

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent; Patty Stanford, Financial Supervisor; Karen Truesdale, Administrative Supervisor; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Tom Timmons, Contract Administrator; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Amelia Sowers, HR Liaison; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Assistant and recorder; and Adrian Gough, County Attorney – Civil Division

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the September 9, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

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

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

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2008 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Motion to approve the minutes as written; all in favor and none opposed.

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

- In general, all of the Interpretive Rangers' programs have been very creative.
- The fire ban was lifted a month earlier than last year, due to all the recent rain.
- The Desert Outdoor Center's 10th Anniversary celebration was a huge success. The celebration started off with the release of an owl that had been rehabilitated.

- There is a new concessionaire at the Adobe Dam water park; construction will begin soon.
- The Scorpion Bay Marina permitting process continues.
- There was a recent National Association of Counties (NACo) awards presentation by the Board of Supervisors. The Parks department received the only “Best in Class” award.
- The interviews were recently held for the new position of Trails Supervisor.

ITEM #5 – SYSTEM MASTER PLAN – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

- Director Cardin advised the Commission that he had just received the complete draft of the entire new system master plan on Monday, September 8. Plans are to get the document down to approximately 150 pages. From there, he would have Debbie Lemon forward in a PDF document to the Commissioners by email.
- The complete plan will be emailed out to each Commissioner for their review prior to the October 21 Commission meeting. The consultant will be present at that meeting and available for questions.

ITEM #6 – UPDATE ON THE NATURE CENTER DISPLAY PROJECT FUNDING – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Director Cardin noted that there is an interdepartmental team working on the nature center display project. Introduced Amy Ford, Park Supervisor for Cave Creek Regional Park.
- Amy Ford, Park Supervisor showed a power point presentation. Estrella Park’s nature center is almost complete now, and Cave Creek’s is right behind it.
- The team came up with nine themes for the nature centers in the first three parks to receive the centers. The facility will be used for both indoor and outdoor functions, and they are looking to have exhibits within the space.
- Commissioner Jarvis asked if the department has looked into the tourist industry. Director Cardin stated that staff has already looked into it as well as different local businesses.
- Amy Ford noted that even though Cave Creek’s nature center is not complete yet, the center is already reserved for the opening week with the National Association of Interpretation annual meeting.
- Director Cardin advised the Commission that the department is still looking for funding for the displays, we have submitted for two grants at this time.

ITEM #7 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Jennifer Waller gave the update on the most recent meeting that was held.
- The department was informed by Arizona Game and Fish that they had set aside funds to assist with the Agua Fria conservation area.
- The partners are looking at working on portions in phases. Phase one would be to get host sites done in the area, then improving the road to the launch area and looking at a 20 foot wide improvement to the launch area.

- Ms. Waller concluded that the partners want to protect the north side of the Agua Fria, and that there will be contingency plans. Updates will continue to be provided to the Commission as new information becomes available.

ITEM # 8 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Chair Lynch reminded the Commissioners of the public hearing and meeting on Friday, September 26 at the Buckeye Public Library. Start time is 1:00 p.m. She also reminded them that the second set of hearings will be just prior to the October 21st Commission meeting.

Item # 8 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Public Information Officer Dawna Taylor informed the Commissioners of a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 16 for the trail head near Anthem, formal invitations will be sent out to each Commissioner.

Item # 9 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Anne Lynch, Chair