

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of October 13, 2009

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**LOCATION:** Usery Mountain Regional Park – Nature Center, Mesa  
AZ 85207

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Laurel Arndt, Soloman Leija (10:05am), Joseph Marvin,  
Jack Stapley, Carl Yoshioka

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rod Jarvis, Anne Lynch

**STAFF PRESENT:** R.J. Cardin, Director; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Ken  
Mouw, Chief Engineer; Jennifer Waller, Westside  
Regional Superintendent; Karen Truesdale,  
Administrative Supervisor; Kristen Mohamed, Park  
Planner; Jennifer Johnston, Park Supervisor – Usery;  
Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator and 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 October 13, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

- Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

**ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM**

- Commissioner Marvin motioned to approve the September minutes as written. Commissioner Arndt seconded. All in favor none opposed.

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

- McDowell Mountain Regional Park Visitor Center improvements are underway.
- Starting in November the Visitor Center at Lake Pleasant will be open 7 days a week.
- The department is working with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) in the planning of Buckeye Hills Regional Park. Also, working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Vulture Mountain cooperative management recreation area and, that location is the priority at this time.

- Director Cardin showed the Commissioners a DVD for the Desert Outdoor Center to use as a marketing and educational tool. The DVD was completed by the Office of Communications.
- Commissioner Marvin asked about the recent stargazing event at White Tank Mountain Regional Park, which he attended. He stated it was a great program, which approximately 80 people were in attendance.
- Director Cardin concluded by showing a photo of the initial construction that is taking place at White Tank for the new Library and Nature Center.

**ITEM #5 – EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – PRESENTATION ITEM**

- Director Cardin advised the Commission that the department will bring back the employee recognition program. In the monthly Commission agenda a person or group will be recognized.
- Director Cardin noted that he wanted to recognize and thank all of the User staff for all their hard work they did for a very successful Grand Opening.

**ITEM #6 – FEE UPDATES – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**

- Director Cardin stated to the Commission that the Board of Supervisors has set the public hearing for Wednesday, November 4 at 9:00 a.m.
- The walk in charge is going from \$1.00 to \$2.00; it's been ten years since the walk-in charge was put in place and a change to the charge. Commissioner Arndt agrees with the \$2.00, that it's still a great value.
- Commissioner Chair Stapley stated that the department has done its homework – that the department knows and has done comparisons to show that we are lower for fees. Recommends doing a justification sheet on any fees and stated that he would meet with the Board of Supervisors.
- Commissioner Leija asked about the wedding packages on behalf of Supervisor Wilcox. Director Cardin advised that the fees were compared to over 15 different locations. Clarification will be provided on the wedding packages, as certain prices pertain to the Desert Outdoor Center and the Nature Centers.
- Commissioner Arndt agreed with Chair Stapley for a justification sheet, and also recommended a narrative on the wedding packages.
- Director Cardin stated there will be a brief presentation at the November 4 Public hearing at the Board of Supervisors meeting room.

**ITEM #7 – STATUS OF THE GENERAL JOE FOSS SHOOTING COMPLEX – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION ITEM**

- Director Cardin stated the department is still working with the Buckeye Hills Shooting Club, the current Special Use Permit (SUP) ends on October 17. After a meeting in early October the Arizona Pistol and Rifle Association has agreed to work with the Buckeye Hills Shooting Club, an agreement was made for one more year on a SUP. The department will keep the Commission posted on a long term agreement.

- Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) have donated more operating dollars to the General Joe Foss Shooting Complex. AZGFD released a grant for a shotgun range.
- Director Cardin noted that for the solar there is a building full of batteries and funds need to be set aside for the replacement of those batteries as needed.
- Commissioner Leija asked about the naming of the pistol range. Director Cardin noted the naming will go before the Board of Supervisors.

**ITEM #8 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE VULTURE PEAK – Kristen Mohamed, Parks Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *INFORMATION ITEM***

- Kristen Mohamed showed a brief PowerPoint presentation to the Commission.
- The area is approximately 40,000 acres, which will be jointly managed by the Hassayampa Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office and the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department (MCPRD).
- There is a planning summit that will take place on Friday, October 30. The summit is hosted by Supervisor Wilson and others. Once the planning summit is completed a draft scope will go out.
- The department will also pursue a long term agreement to turn over the area to MCPRD.
- Director Cardin stated there will be a designated off highway vehicle (OHV) area, since MCPRD does not allow OHV within the county parks.
- Commissioner Yoshioka asked about the time frame. Director Cardin noted the planning will be two years and will likely take five to seven years for development once the initial planning is done. Development is contingent upon future county funding.

**ITEM #9 – DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS – Aimee Upton, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *INFORMATION ITEM***

- Aimee Upton provided the Commissioners with a handout, which was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- Chair Stapley asked if the information was also approved by staff. Director Cardin stated yes and that Mrs. Upton reformatted our Master Plan statement to the Managing for Results/OMB format. This plan, which is dictated by the County is aligned with the recently completed Parks System Strategic Master Plan.
- Mrs. Upton concluded that this will go into place as of July 2010.

**ITEM #9 – APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE – Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *ACTION ITEM***

- Chair Stapley stated that Commissioner Lynch will chair the Nominating Subcommittee as last year's chair, with himself (Jack Stapley) as outgoing Chair and Commissioner Marvin. All were in favor, none opposed.

- The Nominating Subcommittee will meet before the November Commission meeting, at 20 minutes before 9:00 a.m. (8:40am)

**ITEM # 11– CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Commissioner Arndt asked if the department was working with BLM on future planning; Eagle Tail and Saddle Mountain.
- Director Cardin stated with the department goals acquisition is a part. There will be a prioritized list to be completed. Chief Engineer Ken Mouw advised there will be a list of criteria and priority for locations (future locations).

**Item # 12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None.

**Item # 13 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Jack Stapley, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

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R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

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Jack Stapley, Chair