

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of November 15, 2016

LOCATION: White Tank Regional Park, Nature Center Conference Room, 20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road, Waddell, AZ 85335

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Branch, Jack Stapley, Anne Lynch (via phone), and Megha Budruk (via phone)

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Devin Del Palacio, Rod Jarvis, Denise Merdon

STAFF PRESENT: RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Mary Christopher, Recorder; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Dawna Taylor, PIO; Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development 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 November 15, 2016, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Robert Branch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The regular meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

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

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2016, PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Robert Branch, Chairman, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Stapley seconded to approve the Public Hearing minutes of September 20, 2016. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.
- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Stapley seconded to approve the Regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes of September 20, 2016. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

ITEM #4 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Director Cardin reported that former parks commissioner Jerry Aster passed away in September. He had been Chairman during 2001 and was involved in the Master Trail Plan for Cave Creek. Lake Pleasant Discovery Center held its Grand Opening on October 15. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation (MCPR) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are finalizing several documents pertaining to the Hassayampa River Preserve. The Notice of Reality Action (NORA) for MCPR lease of Vulture Mountain was published by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on November 8. Repairs for the Paradise Valley Golf Course well were made. The Buckeye Hills Shooting Range at General Joe Foss Shooting Complex issued a Request for Expression of Interest (LOI) for Public Private Partnership on September 22, no responses were received. MCPR will work with Arizona Game and Fish to find a manager by year end. The current manager of the complex has agreed to stay on a month-to-month basis. Scorpion Bay at Lake Pleasant, under the management of Desert Troon Companies, continues to show improved revenue over the previous concessionaire. Planning and Development added 17 new camp sites to Cave Creek over the last 2 years. Several Parks held Halloween related events in October. Estrella Park started a “Use it Wisely” program. With the cooler weather, the parks have an increase of foot and bike race events. Thirty (30) volunteer scuba divers removed approximately 250 pounds of trash along the shores and underwater at Lake Pleasant.

ITEM #5 – EMPLOYEE SERVICE PIN AWARDS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION ITEM

- Director Cardin recognized the following employees for their years of service with Maricopa County: Dan Wilson (5), and Eldon Heydenreich (15).

ITEM #6 – HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE TRAIL MASTER PLAN APPROVAL – Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ACTION ITEM

- Director Cardin introduced Heather Reading from The Nature Conservancy and thanked her for her work to make this transfer a success.
- Ms. Waller provided a brief overview of the Hassayampa River Reserve Trail Master Plan. The Parks' master plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in January 2012. Ms. Waller asked for the Commission's approval of the Trail Master Plan.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lynch to approve the Hassayampa River Preserve Trail Master Plan. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #7 – HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE SITE MASTER PLAN APPROVAL – Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ACTION ITEM

- Ms. Waller discussed the site master plan as previously presented by MRT to the Commission. The Parks' master plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in January 2012. Beginning in January, Parks will begin to operate to those existing standards. The parks will cooperatively continue to add to this plan to improve the park.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lynch, to approve the Hassayampa River Preserve Site Master Plan With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #8 – HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVAL – Jennifer Johnston, West Side Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ACTION ITEM

- Ms. Johnston stated in addition to the Trail and Site Master Plans, the Conservation Plan addresses the conservation efforts at the preserve. This conservation plan is a management document and includes conservation targets and conservation strategies. The Nature Conservancy plan of 1998 was used as a template in developing this updated plan.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lynch to adopt the Hassayampa River Preserve Conservation Plan. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #9 – THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (HASSAYAMPA PRESERVE) LEASE AGREEMENT - RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ACTION ITEM

- Director Cardin gave a summary and overview of the Hassayampa River Preserve Lease Agreement; there is a total of approximately 789 acres of which 636 acres comprise the leased property. Portions of the property acquired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shall be retained by TNC. The initial term of the lease is 5 years. The goal is have the land conveyance completed within the initial term. If needed, there are two 10-year renewal terms for a total of 25 years.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lynch to recommend the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approve The Nature Conservancy Lease Agreement. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #10 – THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (HASSAYAMPA PRESERVE) CONSERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENT - RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ACTION ITEM

- Director Cardin gave an overview of the conservation easement. The purpose of the easement agreement is to preserve and protect in perpetuity the conservation values of the approximate 77 acres. This easement allows for recreation and educational activities.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lynch to recommend the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approve The Nature Conservancy Conservation Easement Agreement. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #11 – THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (HASSAYAMPA PRESERVE) GIFT DEED AND DONATION AGREEMENT - RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – ACTION ITEM

- Director Cardin stated that the Gift Deed and Donation Agreement are two linked document; the gift deed will quit claim the county the approximate 77 acres. The document includes the execution of the mutually

agreed upon Site Master Plan, the Conservation Easement encumbering the property, and the Water Rights for well use.

- Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lynch to recommend the Maricopa County Board of Supervisor approve The Nature Conservancy Gift Deed Agreement. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lynch to recommend the Maricopa County Board of Supervisor approve The Nature Conservancy Donation Agreement. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.
- Ms. Waller thanked the Commission for their guidance and approvals of the various plans and agreements, the staff in their efforts and dedication and to Ms. Reading for TNC's cooperation during the process. With the combined efforts between Parks staff and TNC staff, the new Hassayampa logo was revealed. Director Cardin also thanked the Commission and staff for their work and dedication in adding the first new county park to the Parks' system in over 15 years.
- Chairman Branch thanked Director Cardin, Parks' staff, TNC and the other Commissioners, for their several years of work and forethought in this historic addition to an already great park system.

ITEM #12 – PARKS 10 YEAR CIP UPDATE - Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Mr. Vonderscher gave an overview of the Parks 10 Year Capital Improvement Program. The FY2016-2017 projects include the Lake Pleasant Boathouse Design, Lake Pleasant 4-lane septic upgrade, Hassayampa development, the Vulture Mountain day use roads/campground design, and design services for utility installation and entry station at Spur Cross. Some of the major projects proposed for FY2017–2018 include electrical work at Buckeye Hills, Estrella, Lake Pleasant and San Tan. Fencing and/or gating at Adobe Dam and Lake Pleasant. Ramada renovations at Estrella and Lake Pleasant. New or renovations of restrooms at Lake Pleasant, Usery, McDowell and White Tank. Replacement or upgrades to the water system at Estrella and Lake Pleasant. Parking improvements for Estrella and San Tan. Roof renovations at Desert Outdoor Center.

ITEM #13 – PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TRADES CREW AND TRAILS CREW HIGHLIGHTS - Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager and Allen Ockenfels, Trails Development Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Mr. Vonderscher provided a brief overview of the work completed by the Trades Crew over the past year. One highlight was the work conducted by both the Trades and Trails Crew in conjunction with outside contractors to complete the Cave Creek group campground; resulting in significant cost savings. Parks now has over 500 miles of park trails.
- Mr. Ockenfels presented a brief overview of the Gadsden Trail and Desert Rose Trail reroutes and improvements at Estrella and White Tank's Mesquite Trail improvements. Much of the work was done in association with AZCC and with a State Parks RTP grant for work involving tread maintenance, drain enhancements, and reroutes. Desert Rose Trail now connects the competitive track to the park's trail system and connects with the Maricopa Trail. Crews worked to remove the Pipeline Canyon Bridge at Lake Pleasant after it was severely damaged in a storm. The trail was rerouted and has been reopened. Mr. Vonderscher stated that the Trails Crew is very good at planning and utilizing hill grades to build sustainable trails to Parks Standards.
- Chairman Branch complimented the Trails Crew for the development and maintenance of all the trails and encourages the public to participate in the 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge.

ITEM #14 – PARKS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE – Kim Richard, Volunteer Coordinator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Ms. Richard presented an overview of the Parks Volunteer Program. The program offers four types of volunteer positions: Park Hosts, Community Volunteers, Episodic Volunteers and Ambassadors. Park Hosts and Community Volunteers are seasonal help who assist with administrative items, park and trail maintenance, work in the entry stations and nature centers, as well as help in the campgrounds. The Ambassadors are a new program that provides committed volunteers with an opportunity to support the parks and trails through regular scheduled trail monitoring and maintenance, trail-head assistance, and interpretive volunteer services. Volunteer hours in FY16 resulted in a financial savings over \$2M for Parks. Volunteer partnerships include the Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation, Central Arizona Conservation Alliance, Hands on Greater Phoenix and the White Tank Mountains Conservancy. The impact of the

partnerships include donated and borrowed tools and supplies such as paint supplies, trash bags and gloves, recruitment of corporate volunteers and project planning.

- Chairman Branch complimented the volunteers and staff for an amazing program.

ITEM #15 – SET 2017 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE – Robert Branch, Chairman, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Chairman Branch to set and approve the 2017 Parks Commission meeting schedule as presented. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #16 – APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO NOMINATE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2017 – Robert Branch, Chairman, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Stapley recommended the appointment of Rod Jarvis and Megha Budruk to the nominating subcommittee, seconded by Chairman Branch. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #17 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Chairman Branch thanked Director Cardin and staff, Kim Richard and the volunteers, and David Jordan and the Lake staff for a wonderful job at the grand opening of the Discovery Center at Lake Pleasant.

Item #18 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Rick Kamel of Phoenix would like to donate 50 laminated signs showing how long litter lasts in the parks. Director Cardin accepted the information for review.

Item #19 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Chairman Branch called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stapley motioned, seconded by Commissioner Budruk. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

RJ Cardin, Director

Chairman