

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of February 9, 2010

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**LOCATION:** Audubon Office – Nina Mason Pulliam Audubon 3131 S. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85040

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rod Jarvis, Salomon Leija, Jack Stapley, Carl Yoshioka

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anne Lynch, Joe Marvin

**STAFF PRESENT:** R.J. Cardin, Director; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Kristen Mohamed, Parks Planner; Karen Truesdale, Administrative Supervisor; Rich Glinski, Parks Supervisor Desert Outdoor Center; Sarah Steele, Interpretive Ranger Desert Outdoor Center; 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 February 9, 2010 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

- Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.
- Sam Campana, Executive Director for Audubon Arizona gave a brief welcome to the Commission; noting that their Arizona State office was established eight years ago and this building has been open to the public for approximately six months.

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

**ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2010 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM***

- Approve the minutes as written motioned by Commissioner Jarvis. Seconded by Commissioner Stapley. 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***

- Director Cardin noted that the staff have done a good job at managing their budgets.

- Spur Cross was closed for a number of days due to the recent storms. White Tank closed for less than a 24 hour period due to a wash making the road impassible just outside the park. Numerous parks also cancelled programs during that time.
- Usery held 86 interpretive programs in January. McDowell has been a host to numerous events.
- Parks are hosting focus groups on park themes as directed by the System Master Plan; the group included staff as well as the public. Good information has been received that will continue to be refined.
- Estrella received new displays from the Flood Control District. The displays feature rivers of the southwest, the El Rio – plan to heal the Gila River and much more.
- At White Tank construction continues; the walls have gone up on the new Nature Center and Library.
- Lake Pleasant featured numerous programs and the Desert Outdoor Center continues exploring more educational options and revenue generating opportunities.
- Commissioner Yoshioka noted to staff and Director Cardin that the department is doing a great job.
- Chair Leija asked in regards to the focus groups what the time frame would be when the Commission will see the information the groups are working on. Director Cardin advised that hopefully by summer, so some of the information can be utilized for the fall season.

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

- Employee of the month for January is Sara Steele, Interpretive Ranger at the Desert Outdoor Center.
  - Director Cardin stated that Sara is the department's animal curator; she keeps in touch with all the parks so the department is compliant with U.S and Game and Fish regulations. Ms. Steele's primary job is interpretive ranger teaching and creating programs and she took it upon herself to oversee the animals for the department on top of her regular duties.
- Ms. Steele said that her work is a joint effort, thanking everyone she works with.

**ITEM #6 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR VULTURE PEAK – Kristen Mohamed, Park Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM**

- Kristen Mohamed advised that on Monday, February 1 interviews were held for the consultant. Next, on Thursday, February 4 the public meeting was held in Wickenburg. Approximately 50 people from the general public attended. Director Cardin, along with Steve Cohn from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) gave a presentation before the public was broken into work groups to discuss planning.
- Staff involved met with BLM onsite to tour the Vulture Mountain area on Monday, February 8.
- Chair Leija asked if there was anyone from the public that was not in favor. Director Cardin stated that concerns have been how many people will be drawn to the area and with proposed park fees since some have used the BLM area free for years. Businesses are happy to see a potential increase in visitation to the area. There are not any other fears or serious issues when the department went in.

- Ms. Mohamed noted it will be approximately 14 to 18 months before a master plan is done for the area.

**ITEM #7 – CAMPING POLICY REVIEW – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Director Cardin asked Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent to come up to give the Commissioners the update.
- Ms. Retterbush advised the Commission that she and Jennifer Waller recently met with Park Supervisors regarding the camping policy review and it was decided to not make any changes until the new Point of Sale and Campground Reservation system is online. They will continue to meet with park supervisors to work on new policies and procedures for next falls' season.
- Director Cardin noted the department will work on the new policy in conjunction with testing and implementation of the camping reservation system.
- Commissioner Jarvis asked about any other issues that have come up during the review. Ms. Retterbush stated some park supervisors fear that if we make campers leave for a day or more, they won't come back and that could cause a serious decrease in Park revenues which are used to operate the parks.
- Ms. Retterbush also noted that from January to March is the busiest time for camping. The department has requested matrix from a vendor to provide details on camping software structure to possibly help.

**ITEM # 8– CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Chair Leija reminded the Commission of the upcoming public hearings for two different parks.
  - One for a easement request at Usery, the first hearing on Wednesday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m. at Usery and the second hearing on Tuesday, March 9 at 8:30 a.m. (prior to the March Commission meeting)
  - The second, an easement request for White Tank with that first hearing on Thursday, March 4 at 10:00 a.m. at White Tank and the second hearing on Tuesday, March 9 at 8:30 a.m.

**Item # 9 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- Sergeant McCann with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Trails Division introduced the new Commander for the Trails Division; Captain Barry Roska.

**Item # 10 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

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R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

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Salomon Leija, Chair