

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

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Rod Jarvis (9:12a.m.), Salomon Leija, Anne Lynch, Joe Marvin, Jack Stapley

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Carl Yoshioka, District 1 (vacant)

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Raymond Schell, Park Maintenance Supervisor – Lake Pleasant; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Specialist and Recorder

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the March 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 9:00 a.m.

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

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2010 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM*

- Motion to approve the minutes as written by Commissioner Stapley. Seconded by Commissioner Marvin.

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

- Director Cardin advised the Commission of a letter he had received from Arizona State Parks that the Maricopa County Parks has 30 trails that have been recognized in the State Parks system.
- At Spur Cross, the Disney Channel did a segment with an elementary school class from Cave Creek.
- Sunset magazine has done an article on the yoga program at Usery, which will be in the May issue.
- McDowell had three successful races take place, all with great numbers participating.
- The San Tan Park Supervisor is now on a Youth Awareness Committee.

- At Estrella the Tres Rios Festival was a success. The festival was moved to Estrella just a few weeks prior to the festival date of March 6 and 7. Kudos to Park Supervisor Carolyn Mayberry for organizing.
- The construction continues to progress for the White Tank Nature Center and Library (photos were passed around).
- Lake Pleasant has been working with Arizona Game and Fish on programs and events.
- The Desert Outdoor Center is working with the Boy Scouts of America and the Ben Avery Shooting Range on a new partnership which will include a new shooting sports merit badge for the Lake Pleasant Summer Camp.
- Cave Creek had an excellent three part program; The Way the West Was Settled.
- Contracts; a new proposal went out for ziplining.
- Administrative Supervisor Karen Truesdale is no longer with the department. She took a promotional position with Public Works.

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

- Director Cardin stated the Employee of the Month for February is Raymond Schell, Park Maintenance Supervisor at Lake Pleasant. Though only at Lake Pleasant and in his new position for approximately 10 months maintenance has improved tremendously. He is conscious of the budget needs and environmentally aware. Thank you.
- Raymond Schell thanked Director Cardin and thanked everyone at Lake Pleasant.

ITEM #6 – EASEMENT REQUEST BY MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Jack Stapley, Commissioner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Stapley advised of the public hearings that were held, first meeting at Usery and second meeting today, March 9, 2010. There was no one from the public present at the meetings.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned to approve the easement request by Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) at Usery Mountain Regional Park. The request is to update an existing easement. Also move that the item be forwarded to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors as submitted and recommended by the Maricopa County Parks Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Lynch. All in favor none opposed.

ITEM #7 – EASEMENT REQUEST BY ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE (APS) and QWEST FOR WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Salomon Leija, Commissioner/Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Leija advised the first public hearing was held at White Tank and the second hearing held today, March 9, 2010. No one from the public was present.

- Commissioner Leija motioned to approve the easement requests by Arizona Public Service (APS) and Qwest at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. The easement will be used for a roadway public utility easement, including, but not limited to, construction, operations, maintenance and repair of roadway and all incidentals thereto, upon, over, across, in, through and under that certain parcel of land. Also move that the item be forwarded by staff to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors as submitted and recommended by the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Lynch. Commissioner Jarvis recues from voting on this item as he represents APS. All in favor none opposed.

ITEM #8 – AGUA FRIA UPDATE – Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- Jennifer Waller reminded the Commission the last time she did an update the Environmental Assessment (EA) was in process. Since that time the EA was completed as well as a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). All comments received were positive. At this time the department is waiting on the final write up by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), which will be a supplement to the Park master plan.
- Host sites will be started once the department has received final approval from BOR.
- Planning for the Castle Creek and the French Creek areas will be started later, the department and other agencies plan to follow the same model that was used for the Agua Fria planning.
- Commissioner Marvin asked about a time frame for implementing the first phase of the Agua Fria Plan. Mrs. Waller stated permitting time frame is unknown but would say within a year or less.

ITEM #9 – CAMPING POLICY REVIEW – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM*

- Director Cardin reminded the Commission Teresa Retterbush is heading the review Committee, but she was unable to be here today Jennifer Waller will assist.
- Overall staff concludes the reservation system will help. Policy will change while focusing on customer needs. Director Cardin noted camping revenue are critical in the departments operating budget and new policies will have to balance revenues with resident concerns.
- Commissioner Marvin asked if anything had changed since some members of the public attended the November Commission meeting. Jennifer Waller advised that there has been no change and since she works in the field notices calls received about camping are asking if we take reservations.

ITEM #10 – STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- Director Cardin advised of the four areas within the Strategic Plan; Land and Facilities, Budget and Administration, Operations and Maintenance, and Programs. Staff was asked to highlight each; with Teresa Retterbush out she will present an update at the next Commission meeting.
- Ken Mouw, working on Land and Facilities advised this committee is working on a Land Acquisition Policy. Also working to establish a rating system for prioritizing parcels as part of the process.

- Commissioner Leija asked if areas surrounding Estrella were being reviewed. Director Cardin requested maps and any other information to be sent to either himself or Ken Mouw for review.
- Director Cardin noted the he heading the Access policy committee, to revise the current policy. Someone from the National Parks service is working with the department on this committee.
- Aimee Upton noted the committee for Budget/Finance is reviewing various new options. New revenue ideas, such as pontoon boat tours, treasure hunts and senior tours (three buses came through Usery Park in February). New concessionaires, such as a zipline and cable lake are being assessed. Also facilities and amenities such as beach volleyball at the Lake are being reviewed. The committee is also creating a pricing policy for the department.
- Jennifer Waller gave a review of the Programs committee. The marketing theme development is in progress and each park had a focus group meeting and was asked to refine the feedback received. By May the committee hopes to get the core programs developed. Also noting that the Desert Outdoor Center programs are built around the Arizona Academic Standards.

ITEM # 11– CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Chair Leija reminded Commissioners the April meeting will be held at Estrella Mountain Regional Park Nature Center at 10:00 a.m.

Item # 12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None.

Item # 13 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Salomon Leija, Chair