

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of August 21, 2018

LOCATION: Parks Headquarters, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, 41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Road, Morristown, Arizona 85342

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Via phone: Megha Budruk, Robert Branch, Thomas Rhoades, Rod Jarvis, and Eric Mears

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Isabel Chavez and Denise Merdon

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Aimee Upton, Administrator; 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 August 21, 2018, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Megha Budruk, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The regular meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

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

ITEM #3 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- Director Cardin welcomed Eric Mears to the Commission. Commissioner Mears was appointed to represent District 3 by the Board of Supervisors in June, 2018.
- Commissioner Mears provided a brief overview of his history and is looking forward to serving on the Parks Commission.

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

- Director Cardin provided a few highlights from the Director's Summary report. The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names discussed the submitted application to name an unnamed peak in Estrella Regional Park in honor of Charles Keating IV after he was killed in action in Iraq in 2016; the board postponed any action pending further information. Staff continues to work with Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC) for a possible site location within McDowell Mountain Regional Park (MMRP). This process is in conjunction with the MMRP Master Plan Update. A decision and formal development agreement regarding SWCC will not be finalized until at least a final master plan update draft is ready. To date, no concerns have been raised at any of the public or stakeholder meetings. FY18 park visitor attendance increased by nearly 5% system wide which included the time period of the fee increases approved by the Board of Supervisors. In June, Six Flags Entertainment acquired the rights to operate Wet N Wild Water Park.

ITEM #5 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PARKS LAND DISPOSAL POLICY – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM*

- Director Cardin provided background on the proposed revisions to the Parks Land Disposal Policy. Estrella Regional Park has been undergoing major renovations approved within the updated master

plan. As part of these changes, the electrical connection point needs to be moved. APS requires an easement for the new power line within the park. This process triggers staff to follow the Parks Land Disposal Policy and Procedure which requires multiple public hearings by the Parks Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The policy was last approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1997. Staff acknowledges that any park land disposal process be maintained, however, easements that benefit the park becomes very cumbersome following the policy procedures. Therefore, staff recommends to the Parks Commission to make an exception for easements that benefit the park and are consistent with an approved park master plan.

- Commission discussion included the status and plans of the current easement at Estrella, the exclusive/non-exclusive use of the easement for future park purposes, and what potential criticism might be received if this was approved. Director Cardin informed the Commission that the old easement will be extinguished. Easement verbiage/agreement usually includes the non-exclusive use language and staff will take note to try to include it whenever possible. This recommended exception would only apply for easements that benefit the park versus an easement request that may cross park land to benefit a private party. In that case, the disposal policy and procedures would be followed. It was also noted that an approved park master plan does go through an extensive public input process.
- Chair Budruk motioned to recommend the Board of Supervisors amend the 1997 Land Disposal Policy and Procedures (C-30-97-017-6) to exclude easements required to provide utilities or other services for the benefit or support of park lands or infrastructure consistent with approved park master plans and that the Parks Director and the County Attorney's Office develop the appropriate language to effect the change. I further recommend staff to update the language to correct the Department name throughout the document and make any other appropriate administrative changes. Seconded by Commissioner Branch. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

Ayes: Rhoades, Mears, Branch, Jarvis, Budruk Nays: none Absent: Merdon, Chavez

ITEM #6 PROPOSED APS EASEMENT AT BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL PARK - SET PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR OCTOBER 8, 2018 AND OCTOBER 16, 2018 – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

- Director Cardin explained that this request not only will supply electricity to the park's public shooting facility, but will also provide electricity to the Maricopa County Sheriff's shooting range located within the park. Because of the electric service being provided to the Sheriff's range, Director Cardin recommends this easement follow the prescribed Land Disposal Policy and Procedures. This approval to set public hearings would set in motion the Parks Land Disposal Policy.
- Commissioner Mears motioned to set hearing dates to receive public comments on the proposed APS Easement request at Buckeye Hills Regional Park for Monday, October 8, 2018 at 3:00 pm at Estrella Regional Park and Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 8:45 am at Parks Headquarters Conference Room and that all language should exclude exclusive use on the easement. Seconded by Commissioner Jarvis. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

Ayes: Rhoades, Mears, Branch, Jarvis, Budruk Nays: none Absent: Merdon, Chavez

ITEM #7 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

ITEM #8 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Commissioner Branch inquired on his informal recommendation to recognize long-term commissioners and park volunteers. Director Cardin stated that there is a county policy on naming that Parks needs to follow. A follow up phone call will be scheduled to discuss ideas.

ITEM #9 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Commissioner Branch motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mears. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.

R.J. Cardin, Director

Megha Budruk, Chair