



234 N. Central Avenue
Suite 6400
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2187
Phone: 602-506-2930
Fax: 602-506-4692
www.maricopa.gov/parks

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 30, 2006
To: Parks and Recreation Department Commissioners
From: William C. Scalzo, Director *WCS*
Re: **Director's Summary of Current Events**

Listed below are issues that the department has been involved with since the May 9, 2006 Director's Summary.

Superintendent Report

McDowell Mountain Regional Park: Hydro-seeding has taken place on the 1.25 mile section of the Park which borders Rio Verde, Arizona. The company who did the hydro-seeding and Desierto Verde, who is responsible for coordinating the recovery of the damaged park property, have been informed that the land below the power lines, from Rio Verde to the State Trust Land must be dug to remove ruts and to break up the compacted soil and then be hydro-seeded.

An RFP was issued and Northland Research, Inc. was the successful bidder to do the Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) at the Pemberton Ranch site. They recently completed a CRS in San Tan at the end of June.

After closing the access to the Dixie Mine Trail for most of the past thirty months due to construction of the gated community, "Eagles Nest," the trail was reopened to the public on June 9, 2006. After two construction fires within the subdivision they have opted to close access to the Dixie Mine until conditions change. The park is considering options to ensure access is always open to the park and the Dixie Mine trail system.

McDowell Park Association has offered to purchase a four wheel drive small utility vehicle with the wheel base of an ATV but able to carry at least two passengers. This vehicle was requested by the park and will be used for maintenance on fence lines, search and rescue efforts and will be able to carry park personnel and emergency responders to injured park visitors anywhere in the park.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area (SCRCA): Supervisor John Gunn attended a meeting along with Superintendent Teresa Retterbush and County Counsel Kevin Costello with the leadership of the Tonto National Forest regarding the water diversion at Seven Springs. The Forest Service is committed to re-evaluating this action via the NEPA process; however they declined our request to cease the activity until this analysis is completed. The department is cautiously optimistic.

Usery Mountain Regional Park: We are continuing to move on the Wildlife Viewing Pond grant. The exciting new scope of work has been accepted by the Arizona Game & Fish. The concept has been designed with the culture in mind for birders and wildlife enthusiasts along with a new education experience for all ages. The pond will be built by an experienced water-feature contractor. In the parking area a 3-panel kiosk will be installed for informational and educational signage. Park staff will develop kiosk signage in-house. A walking trail up to the viewing area will be constructed by the Parks Trails Crew. The new design has incorporated shaded, viewing blinds designed of saguaro ribs along with benches for sitting and a matching saguaro rib kiosk with bulletin boards for visitors and staff to record animal sightings. Native plants will be used for landscaping around the pond this will also be

used to discourage viewers that will not be allowed to enter the water or get near the pond, signage will also be used. The cultural clearance has been finished and construction of the grant project is starting this month.

Memorial Day weekend was busier than in 2005. The park had the National Association of the Deaf camping in the large group site A & B and Salt River tubers camping in the Buckhorn Campground plus many Wind Cave hikers sweating it up to the cave. Law enforcement closed the Salt River and Saguaro Lake on both Sunday and Monday due to over-capacity on the river at the Beeline Highway, Power Road/202 and on Usery Pass Road at the park entrance.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park: Multiple summer projects are underway. Irrigation construction is started. The new restroom and ramada are now ready for use. We have ordered picnic tables for new the ramada and picnic grills are also being replaced. Several landscaping projects are planned to address the erosion.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park: The Life Jacket Loaner Pilot Program – July 1, 2006, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. It is intended to promote awareness of the importance of wearing life jackets in and near water. This day was chosen because it is one of the busiest holiday kick off days and the day of the fireworks display. The audience reach is estimated to be 1,000 during the actual event and may reach as many as 2,000 throughout the day. Park personnel will distribute 30 USCG approved, child-sized life jackets to park visitors along the shoreline who have children in the water without life jackets. The pilot program tests the feasibility and logistics of a community service that offers loaner jackets to the public on a permanent basis for 2007, which must be collected and returned. The life jackets are being loaned to the Park by the Boat U.S. Foundation. Sportsman's Warehouse and West Marine will each donate adult-sized life jackets that will be used as raffle prizes. To ensure the return of the loaner jackets, each family who receives a loaner jacket will also receive a chance to enter a raffle to win a free lifejacket upon the return of the loaner jacket.

In conjunction with this pilot program, Peoria Fire will promote awareness for their Kids Don't Float Program with giveaways at the boat ramps, as well as monitoring and underwater camera demonstrations at Scorpion Bay. They will also distribute informational brochures. Bi-lingual "Wear It" posters will be displayed in both contact stations and all kiosks.

The Lake Pleasant Paddlers program has been selected by Arizona State Parks to present at the Best of the Best in Recreation Centers and facilities at the 2006 Arizona State Parks and Recreation Conference. Terry Gerber, Interpretive Ranger will be one of the eight presenters to give an eight-minute presentation.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park: White Tank staff members have completed all of the bush and tree trimming on the north boundary, this cleared the way for the fence contractor and that job is completed.

The AZ Republic had a front page article on a theory about a Petroglyph near Petroglyph Plaza on the Waterfall Trail representing a Supernova from the year 1006. The Visitor Center staff received several calls and White Tank Park had an attendance spike that week in visitors wanting to see the Petroglyphs on the trail.

On Monday, June 26, the White Tank Park Contact Station was burned down. The staff is making plans for seamless customer service and operations.

Maricopa Trail

Scott Peters and Dave Wilson/EPG design consultants have been provided the trail scope of work which includes Segment 10 at White Tank, Segment 17 at Cave Creek and Segment 19 at Spur Cross, in preparation for a contract fee proposal.

Norm Hintz and Akram Rosheidat/TRK presented the proposed branch library/visitor center and amphitheater design concept for the White Tank Park entrance location.

The Lake Pleasant Overlook Trail link and the Bureau of Reclamation/Maricopa Water District/Central Arizona Project Canal agreed to Morgan City Wash area Maricopa Trail alignment was put on hold until the Park trail master plan is updated by the trail planners.

The Anthem Trailhead design is complete with an August construction start scheduled.

Gloria Nichols/Arizona State Land Department has requested and received Parks authorization for prepayment of their appraisal costs and requested the cultural resource reports for Segments 16 and 18.

Shane Leonard/Roosevelt Water Conservation District Canals has evidenced ownership of the canal land crossed by Mesa/Gilbert streets and is in the process of setting up a meeting with their general manager to discuss proceeding with the recreational liability issues with the County.

Bernadette Jimenez/Town of Guadalupe and Mark Johnson have authorized the County to provide Arizona Department of Transportation and Aztec Engineering with an updated design concept for the Sun Circle and Maricopa Trail alignment; task complete and reviewed with Aztec and ADOT.

Jarod Rogers/City of Phoenix is preparing the Pima Canyon park access road right-of-way boundary to delineate the area proposed for the connecting trail alignment.

Karen Williams/City of Phoenix Rio Salado and the U. S. Corps of Engineers/Rio Salado Oeste have included the Maricopa Trail as a stakeholder for their ecosystem restoration project.

Lisa Anderson/ADOT requested and received Maricopa Trail access comments on the I-10 Reliever (SR 801), SR 85 to 303L (Cotton Lane) environmental study.

Doug Williams and Jennifer Pokorski/Flood Control District with Dan Davis/City of Avondale conducted a tour of the FCD levees on the east bank of the Agua Fria proposed to include the regional trail system: Dennis Holcomb reports a draft IGA completion by month end.

Kristen Mohamed completed a power point slide show for the May APRA conference presentation, the June State Historic Preservation Office archaeology symposium presentation and the Maricopa Trail, plus Park Foundation Board of Directors requested CD presentation material.

A scoping meeting was held for the Visitor Center/Amphitheater with TRK architects in preparation for their contract fee proposal. Direction was received to design the projects with desert roofs, solar thermal applications and green building systems.

Contract Updates

Lake Pleasant Regional Park: Lake Pleasant Marina Partners, LLC and Parks continue to work with the Bureau of Reclamation in submission of the final version of the Environmental Assessment – a critical document needed to allow the permit process to go forward. Construction must start this summer during low water periods or the project will be delayed for approximately one (1) year.

Discussions continue with the City of Peoria in order to finalize an IGA outlining responsibilities for emergency services (police, fire and medical) and building codes/permit process. It appears the final document will outline the following:

- City of Peoria building codes will be adhered to; however, the permitting process will be through County.
- MCSO will be responsible for Lake Patrol and water rescue; City of Peoria will be secondary.
- Fire protection will be provided by the City of Peoria.
- Emergency medical services will be provided by the Maricopa County Sheriff and the City of Peoria.

A formal presentation to the City of Peoria is scheduled for July 11th at which Lake Pleasant Marina Partners, LLC will be in attendance. The primary purpose is to provide an overview regarding the Marina project and to ensure their continued cooperation.

Adobe Dam Regional Park: Victory Lane Sports Complex has been assigned effective June 1, 2006. The new owners, KCCM Enterprises, LLC, bring experience and new found energy to make a successful recreation entity even better.

Discussions continue between Parks and Waterworld Safari regarding the Settlement Agreement. They did agree to Invitation for Bid pertaining to appraisal of the Park's non-real estate assets and to the proposed vendor list. That document is being finalized for release with a bid opening date of July 24, 2006. Once the assessment is complete, we can then move forward for finalization/release of the Request for Proposal for a new Agreement. The effective date of the new Agreement appears to still be October 1, 2008.

The Amendment to the existing Agreement with Sahuaro Central is being finalized. Upon completion, Parks will have acquired approximately 16 acres of property fronting Pinnacle Peak which will be available for additional Concessionaires. Upon approval of the Amendment with Sahuaro Central by the Board of Supervisors, Parks can then release a new Request for Proposal seeking additional Concessionaires for vacant properties at Adobe Dam.

An Amendment to extend the existing Use Management Agreement with Arizona Karting was approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 21, 2006. The extension is for a 5-year period effective 2007.

Discussions are on-going with Sprint for construction of a possible cell tower at Estrella Regional Park which, upon completion, will mean additional revenue.

Discussions are on-going with Verizon for construction of a possible cell tower at Userly which, upon completion, will mean additional revenue.

Grant Update

Desert Outdoor Center: The boat dock is now 98% complete. The Boy Scouts provided the majority of the labor. They will also benefit from this by using it for aquatic educational amenities.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park: Installation of the bat gate for bat protection in an abandoned mine is complete. This project went very smooth and we are pleased with the results.

Userly Mountain Regional Park: Arizona Game & Fish approved our request to enhance a current project by constructing a wildlife viewing area with a 15 ft x 15 ft x 2 ft deep pond for topminnow and pupfish.

Construction/Design Projects

FY06 Projects:

Estrella Mountain Regional Park Irrigation System Improvements: The construction contract was awarded to Grounds Control, Inc. and they have started work.

Restroom Improvements – Phase 1: The restrooms at White Tank and the restroom & ramada at Estrella are complete. The structures at McDowell and Userly are nearing completion.

Entry Station Improvements – Phase 2: The construction contract was awarded to Niche Contractors, Inc. and they will begin work in July.

Fencing at San Tan Mountain Regional Park: Security Fence of Arizona has completed 80% of the San Tan North Finger of barb wire fence around the finger. They are proceeding with the South Finger, which is approximately 7 miles of fence.

Userly Mountain Regional Park Water System Improvements: HDR Engineering is 90% complete with the construction plans and the project will be bid in August.

FY07 Projects:

Visitor Centers and Amphitheaters: The consultant contract was awarded to TRK and a design charette will take place in July at the San Tan Entry Station.

System Wide Master Plan: A scoping meeting with park staff was conducted on June 28th and a request for proposals from consultants will be following.

Estrella Campground Design Update: Negotiations are proceeding with Stantec and a contract is anticipated to be executed later in July. Construction is anticipated next fiscal year if funds are approved.

Playground Shade Structures: Negotiations are proceeding with Shade Net through a Mohave Educational Services Cooperative contract. The Mohave contract is planned to be approved July 12th. Fifteen playgrounds throughout the park system are planned for shade structures.

Restroom Improvements - Phase 3: Negotiations are proceeding with ART and a contract is anticipated to be executed later in July. McDowell will receive two new family campground restrooms and Usery will receive two new group campground restrooms. All existing four structures will be demolished and built new.

Vulture Mountain: Discussions are proceeding with the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Parks has allocated \$100,000 to assist BLM with environmental studies.

Coming and Going in Human Resources

The following people left Parks:

- Marc Bondurant, Maintenance Worker at the DOC
- Terri Martzke, Park Educator at the DOC
- Ken Ludeman, Park Maintenance Worker at San Tan

The following people were hired at Parks:

- Richard (RJ) Cardin was hired as our new Assistant Director
- Genai Newberg was hired as the new Park Clerk at White Tank
- Dawna Taylor was hired as the new Public Information Officer at Headquarters
- Donna Brothers was hired as the new Contact Station Assistant (FT) at Lake Pleasant
- Ruth McCormick was hired as the new Events Coordinator at Lake Pleasant
- Mark Ostapczuk was hired as the new Park Maintenance Worker at McDowell
- Jonathan McKelvey was hired as the new Trails Technician with the Trails Crew

We are currently recruiting for:

- Contact Station Assistant (2 temporary) at Lake Pleasant
- Park Maintenance Worker (Lake Pleasant, DOC and San Tan)
- Trails Technician (Trails Crew)
- Trades Specialist (Construction Crew)
- Park Supervisor (Estrella and San Tan)