

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Arizona convened at 9:00 a.m., August 5, 2002, in the Board of Supervisors' Conference Room, Tenth Floor, 301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Don Stapley, Chairman; Fulton Brock, Vice Chairman; Max W. Wilson and Mary Rose Wilcox (entered late). Absent: Andy Kunasek. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Alma Hernandez, Administrative Coordinator; Tom Manos, Acting County Administrative Officer; and Paul Golab, Deputy County Attorney.

PRESENTATION: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Item: Parks and Recreation Department on the Lake Pleasant Regional Park bald eagle program and the Department's K-9 Unit. (C3002054M) (ADM3200)

Chairman Stapley acknowledged Tom Manos, Maricopa County's Chief Financial Officer, who was attending the meeting on behalf of David Smith, County Administrative Officer, during his absence. Prior to the beginning of the presentation, Chairman Stapley related his personal experience of viewing bald eagles in their natural habitats at local lakes.

William Scalzo, Chief Community Service Officer and director of the Parks and Recreation Department, announced two of the department's newest programs: the bald eagle program and the K-9 Unit.

Mr. Scalzo introduced Park Officer Ken Wilson, who was formerly with the Scottsdale Police Department for 22 years, and is now a sergeant with the Parks Department and assigned to the K-9 Unit. With the funding assistance through a Public Safety Grant, a three year-old, Black Labrador Retriever named "Chuy" was obtained and trained to detect narcotics and cadavers. Since January 2002, Chuy has been responsible for 20 drug-related arrests and has assisted on two cadaver searches. Requests for Chuy's assistance have been received from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, City of Scottsdale, and the Tonto National Forest Services. Chuy's non-aggressive behavior makes it possible for him to make public, educational appearances, including school settings. Chuy resides with Sgt. Wilson.

A brief field demonstration was conducted in which Chuy located a packet of drugs previously planted in the room by Sgt. Wilson.

Mr. Scalzo introduced Natalie Gilstrap, Administrative Coordinator with the Parks and Recreation Department, who presented information about the bald eagle banding project conducted on April 8, 2002 at Lake Pleasant Regional Park to band a female eaglet. During the banding exercise, staff members of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, Nest Watch Program, and media hiked to a location just above the eagle's nest. From that location, Game and Fish staff rappelled down the mountain to retrieve the eaglet for banding. The banding project allows the Game and Fish Department to track the eaglet after she fledges the nest.

Ms. Gilstrap reported that the Lake Pleasant eagle breeding area was first discovered in 1979 when a nest was found in a cottonwood tree along the Agua Fria River. The first breeding activity was recorded in 1984 when a second nest was discovered on a cliff. Although eggs were laid in this nest for several years, no young were produced until the breeding seasons of 1993-1995 when five eaglets successfully fledged.

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK

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~ Supervisor Wilcox entered the meeting. ~

Since 1997, the Lake Pleasant eagles have returned to nest and have had successful fledglings every year. In 2001, two healthy male eaglets were banded and successfully fledged the nest. In April of this year, one healthy female was banded and is also expected to successfully fledge.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Nest Watch program researches behavior, feeding patterns, and attempts to protect breeding areas. The County's Parks and Recreation Department partners with the state's Game and Fish Department in this effort since the lake area is governed by the County. Maricopa County also patrols boating in the area.

Supervisor Wilcox mentioned that she recently visited the Lake Pleasant Desert Center and was very impressed with the facility and surroundings. Mr. Scalzo stated that an air-conditioning unit was installed at the facility to provide for year-round use.

Ms. Gilstrap showed portions of a videotape of the banding exercise. She explained that vital statistics were recorded (i.e., weight, wingspan) of the four-month old, female eaglet. The band placed on its talon will track the eaglet and it will help to identify it at its next nesting location. Ms. Gilstrap reported that the adult eagles were perched on a cliff above the nest during the banding procedure. The adult eagles will continue to live in the nest, but the eaglets will move to other nests once they mature.

Mr. Scalzo concluded the presentation by stating that the 10,000 acres of preserved land at Lake Pleasant Regional Park provides a uniquely safe environment for the eagles. The cliffs not only offer a safe nesting location, but also give the eagles a vantage point from which to fish and hunt. With the cooperation of the state Game and Fish Department, the goal of the County's Parks and Recreation Department is for wildlife to prosper within the County parks.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Don Stapley, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board