

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of February 14, 2006

LOCATION: 234 N Central Ave, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85004

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurel Arndt; Celeste Hamilton; Anne Lynch, Jill Kusy; Jack Stapley and Randy Virden

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Raul Chayrez

STAFF PRESENT: William Scalzo, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Joe Ballengee, Trails Planner; Chris Coover, Regional Trail Manager; Don Harris, Park Supervisor; Rand Hubbell, Park Supervisor; Jennifer Lawrence, Westside Superintendent; Carolyn Mayberry, Administrative Coordinator; Ken Mouw, Engineering Manager; Allen Ockenfels, Trails Planner; Roxana Rojo, Project Manager; Rhonda Woodward, Administrative Supervisor and Recorder; Bill VanAusdal, MCSO Captain; and Kevin Costello, County Counsel

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the February 14, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

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

ITEM #3 - EMPLOYEE SERVICE PIN AWARDS – William C. Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *PRESENTATION ITEM*

- Director Scalzo presented a 5 year service pin to Allen Ockenfels of the trails crew. Allen began as a trails technician and proceeded to position as a trails planner within six months. He created and maintains our “Grow Yard” where native plants are cared for prior to placement.

ITEM # 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2006 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM*

- Commissioner Arndt asked that the phrase “asked why we haven’t included these activities” under item # 9, be stricken from the minutes.
- Motion to approve the January 10, 2006 minutes as corrected was made by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by Commissioner Stapley. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM # 5 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – William C. Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Director Scalzo reported of the passing of Jim King. Mr. King served on the first land acquisition committee and was directly involved in procurement and development of Estrella Mountain Regional Park. He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission, headed two bond issues (the last in 1986), and participated in both the 40th and 50th anniversary celebrations. Mr. King’s memorial service was held February 10, 2006 in Litchfield Park. Director Scalzo commented that he would like to get the family involved with some form of memorial in our park system.
- Two years ago the Commission approved of disposal of two acres at Oasis Park to the Mesa Association for Retarded Citizens. The group has asked for a few changes to the land use. Community Development is working with them to address some issues as part of this land was acquired with Community Development Block Grant money. County Counsel believes that along with the Department of Community Development these technical adjustments can be made with the Board’s approval.
- Reported on vacancies and hiring efforts. There are 13 vacancies in our department. Interviews are underway for the Eastside Regional Superintendent Position.
- Cave Creek Regional Park and Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area are involved in cooperative efforts in their areas. They are working with the Desert Foothills Natural Resource Initiatives, a citizen group looking at open space issues in Northern Maricopa County
- Dedication of the solar thermal facility at the Desert Outdoor Center is scheduled for April 18, 2006. A public open house is scheduled for April 22, 2006. This facility will provide 70% of the air conditioning and heating needed at the DOC.
- Permanent docks at the Desert Outdoor Center will soon be ready. These docks were made possible through grant funding from the Arizona State Parks SLIF Fund. The docks will be useful to our Aquatics Education Program.
- Nest watchers arrived back at Lake Pleasant Regional Park February 10, 2006. Lake Pleasant is the #1 breeding area in Arizona for Bald Eagles.
- Grant funding has been awarded to produce the Lake Pleasant brochure along with a pocket guide that focuses on boating and fishing. The brochure and pocket guide will go to print next month.
- McDowell Mountain Regional Park had a number of bike races and competitive programs
- Spur Cross restoration and hydro-seeding to re-vegetate with native grasses is complete.
- Maricopa Trail is progressing.
- Sherine Zaya has left for a position in Peoria but has left us with some successes. These include a mural at “Change of Venue” Cafeteria and 5000 post card mailers for each park which include discount coupons.
- We have renewed our agreement with Tonto National Forest to support joint trail maintenance between Usery Mountain Regional Park and Tonto National Forest.

- The City of Mesa Utilities Committee approved our request to hook into the Mesa water system. This will allow us to discontinue use of the water tanks at Usery Mountain Regional Park and provide a better quality of water for our users.
- We have been working diligently on new visitor centers.
- The 35th Annual Boat Show was held at Civic Plaza February 10-12. The developer of our new marina unveiled the project as the “Scorpion Bay Marina and Yacht Club.”
- Director Scalzo displayed the State Quality Award trophy to the Commission. Mr. Scalzo will be doing a presentation at their conference on innovation.
- Commissioner Arndt asked for clarification on the Guadalupe Bridge project. Chris Coover explained that the nuance was that the grant included the bridge portion only. We were successful in convincing the Department of Transportation that this was not enough. The Arizona Department of Transportation has agreed to continue from Highline Canal on the east to South Mountain Park on the west. We gave them an alignment they could use and they agreed. Director Scalzo added that there had been an issue with the City of Phoenix through Condominiums. Mr. Coover commented that we retained a 30 foot wide right of way.
- Commissioner Arndt questioned how we would manage and control additional traffic at the Lake (5-10,000 visitors) and if the Marina would give us more money. Director Scalzo clarified that we would get a set amount per year with escalators and that staff would monitor. There will be added value amenities, a full time person at the fueling dock and a tram to get people to their boats. He does not believe that we will be overwhelmed. It will be another year before opening.

ITEM # 6 – COMMISSION REPRESENTATION ON ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SELECTION COMMITTEE – William C. Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

Director Scalzo requested Commission representation on the selection committee for the Assistant Director position (up to 3 available, but not all needed at all meetings). Chair Hamilton will serve in this capacity. She also appointed Commissioners Lynch and Stapley. Interviews will be done in the next 2-3 weeks and completed by April.

ITEM # 7 – REQUEST FROM PINAL COUNTY FOR EASMENT AT SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Supervisor Sandie Smith, Pinal County – INFORMATION DISCUSSION ITEM

Supervisor Smith from Pinal County stated that they were expanding their trail system and modeling after ours. They are also trying to connect with our trail system.

Pinal County has been able to help with the development of San Tan Regional Park by getting \$300,000 in donations from the development community.

What is needed now is a partnership agreement for road development. Gary Road is paved to Judd but needs to go south another two miles. Supervisor Smith introduced John Davis, from Public Works, a District 2 engineer who showed Commissioners the alignment and portion of right of way needed on the south finger of the park (1/4 mile of road).

Land owners are part of the partnership, contributing to the road and working on rights of way. The Sand and Gravel Company is also part of the partnership. Because of the Sand and Gravel operation in the area the road must meet higher standards. It is costing \$500,000 per mile to construct roads.

Commissioner Arndt commented that this was not on Pinal County's five year master plan.

Supervisor Smith stated that Pinal County would maintain the road. Because this is a non-attainment area, paving the road would assist in the mitigation of dust and air problems. Supervisor Smith stated that Pinal County would fence off the park land on the easement area at their expense and would assist in fencing the additional Gary Road property. They would provide the labor and we would provide the materials.

Director Scalzo commented that our goal was to fence. This is not a public area, but a conservation area.

Director Scalzo also commented that the fencing proposal might be good enough remuneration for the easement.

Kevin Costello, County Counsel, noted that an appraisal might not be necessary as this would be a government to government exchange.

ITEM # 8 – SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR EASEMENT REQUEST BY PINAL COUNTY AT SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK PURSUANT PARKS LAND DISPOSAL POLICY –ACTION ITEM

Director Scalzo stated that two public hearings would need to be held 30 days from posting. Commissioner Lynch moved that the first hearing be scheduled for March 28, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. at San Tan Mountain Regional Park. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Lynch moved to have the second hearing April 11, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. at 234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Phoenix, Arizona. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Arndt will be at the first hearing as will Commissioner Virden. No quorum will be present. Representatives from Pinal County will be present at both meetings to make presentations.

ITEM # 9 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lynch thanked Commissioner Kusy for chairing the Capital Improvement Budget Committee Meeting in her absence on January 10, 2006.

Commissioner Arndt noted that the Town of Cave Creek had approved their master trail plan. She stated that as an individual citizen, not a commissioner, she wrote a letter to Cave Creek asking them to activate an easement and have it put in the master plan. Director Scalzo asked that this topic be put on the March agenda for discussion. As Commissioner Arndt would be unable to attend the March meeting discussion on the topic will be scheduled for the April meeting. Director Scalzo will see that John Gunn is available for the meeting.

Chair Hamilton reminded Commissioners that they could not represent the entire Commission on their own at any time, but could speak on issues as private citizens.

Chair Hamilton will be traveling to Washington DC for the National Parks and Recreation Association mid year meeting for public advocacy and NRPA national business.

Item # 10 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC –

Anthony Michaud, 1225 N 36th St, #1094, Phoenix, AZ - Windsurfers at Lake Pleasant
Windsurfers pay the \$5.00 entrance fee and an additional \$2.00 per watercraft fee. Windsurfers use more than one board based on wind conditions. It is not uncommon for one windsurfer to bring 2-3 boards. He does not feel that beach access craft should be charged the watercraft fee as they are not using ramps, etc. He also noted that personnel at the gate are not always sure how to charge and would like clarification made on charges.

- Claudia Bloom, 1623 N. Avoca, Mesa, AZ – Unlawful trails at Utery Mountain Regional Park
Commented on the increasing number of unlawful trails at Utery Park and requested that more monitoring be done.

Commissioner Hamilton thanked each presenter for their comments and concerns. She stated that although feedback could not be given at this time, Commissioners do have input and will review these items

Item # 11 – ADJOURNMENT –

- Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

William C. Scalzo, Director/Secretary

Celeste Hamilton, Chair

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