

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of April 10, 2007

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**LOCATION:** White Tank Mountain Regional Park, 13025 N. White Tank Mountain Road, Waddell, AZ 85355

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jill Kusy, Anne Lynch, Salomon Leija, Jack Stapley and Randy Virden

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Laurel Arndt

**STAFF PRESENT:** William C. Scalzo, Director; R.J. Cardin, Assistant Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Rhonda Woodward, Administrative Supervisor; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Roxana Rojo, Project Manager, Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Don Harris, Park Supervisor – White Tank; David Jordan, Park Supervisor – San Tan; Ray Kaniut, Park Supervisor – Cave Creek; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Ray Martinez and Raymond Schell, Park Maintenance; Erin Simmons, Intern; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator and Recorder; Kevin Costello, County Counsel; and Bill Van Ausdal, MCSO – Trails Division

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The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the April 10, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- Meeting called to order 10:20 a.m.

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

**ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2007 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM**

- Anne Lynch motioned to approve the minutes with a second motion by Randy Virden.

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

- Director Scalzo advised the Commission of the passing of Peter Hasslacher on March 4. Mr. Hasslacher served on the Commission from 1988 to 1994. Information will be given to the Commission on the pending memorial service.

- A second floating restroom facility is needed at the Lake and we are currently working with Game and Fish on a grant for a new one. They have agreed to purchase the facility if Parks will maintain it. A cooperative agreement will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- One upcoming event at the Lake on May 19<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Boating Safety Celebration. Park staff is working with numerous agencies to have another successful event this year.
- Attendance is up at White Tank Mountain Regional Park 23%. Extensive mile markers have been placed on the trails at White Tank.
- Phase one for Buckeye Hills Shooting Range went before the Board of Supervisors on March 21<sup>st</sup> and passed unanimously. Scheduled times for operation, once complete, is Wednesday to Sunday, open to the public and the remaining days are set for training.
- Paul "Crash" Marusich has accepted the position of Park Supervisor at Estrella Mountain Regional Park.
- We have presented to the Bureau of Land Management an agreement to manage Vulture Mountain (25,000 acres) which we hope to have completed in 30 to 45 days. This will be a great addition to our Parks system. The town of Wickenburg is very supportive of our efforts.
- There is a great new program at Usery Park called the Toddler's Cruise. It has been very successful and great for encouraging family activity.
- Rand Hubbell, McDowell Mountain Regional Park Supervisor, attended a reception in Sacramento, California where he accepted an award that McDowell Mountain Regional Park and Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department received for outstanding leadership in developing the Mountain Bike by Moonlight program.
- The annual Host Appreciation luncheon was at McDowell, and similar to past events the weather was cold and miserable. But despite the weather, everyone had a great time, and the hosts had made some wonderful desserts.
- Spur Cross staff continues work for a solar wildlife oasis. On April 26 the dedication of the Regional Trail system at Spur Cross.
- Introductions were made for new Park Supervisors, David Jordan at San Tan and Ray Kaniut at Cave Creek.
- Marketing has been busy with numerous events coming up. April 23<sup>rd</sup> will be Estrella's Ribbon Cutting for their entry station and irrigation system and then the Regional Trail dedication at Spur Cross on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Marketing has added a new section to the Commission packet, which will have information from all media outputs with very specific data.
- The System Master Plan is in progress. On April 9<sup>th</sup> Director Scalzo and Assistant Director, R.J. met with the Arizona Republic Editorial Board to discuss our process and get support from them.
- Mr. Scalzo invited Commissioners to the next Informal Board meeting at 301 W. Jefferson on April 16. A presentation will be given to the Board regarding the Capital Plan for the next ten years. Information will be emailed out to Commissioners on specifics for this meeting.
- Chair Jill Kusy encouraged her fellow Commissioners to speak with their Board Supervisor in support of the Parks Capital Plan.

- Assistant Director, R.J. Cardin mentioned to the Commissioners that they received a handout of information with updates from the Consulting team for the System Master Plan.
  - Chair Jill Kusy, asked Director Scalzo if assistance would be needed from the Commissioners. Mr. Scalzo stated that the consulting team would be in touch for a future meeting to discuss items with the Commissioners.

**ITEM #5 – FEE STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE – Tina Allen, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM***

- Anne Lynch stated that at the Parks total budget is funded only 25% from the general fund and the remainder is made up by what is called earned funds. Today's discussion is only to do an interim increase for one year as we are currently working on a new System Master Plan. We'll need to take into account what comes out of the Master Plan. Discussion was turned over to Tina Allen, Administrator.
- Tina Allen noted that at this time Lake Pleasant fees will not be a part of the upcoming interim fee increase due to various issues that would need to be addressed there. The desert parks would still do an interim fee increase recommended for July 1. Other comparisons were done, including looking at our recent ASU survey.
- Chair, Jill Kusy, stated that it is fair to say that the increases would not be out of line with other fees. It was noted that the proposed fees still fell in the average to low range of comparable markets.
- Commissioner Leija asked if other county park agencies were compared, like Pima County.
  - Tina Allen stated that other counties were compared and Pima County, though they do not have a day use fee, does require a permit which takes a couple days to get. Their camping pricing is the same.
- Vice Chair, Anne Lynch motioned to establish a public hearing on May 8, at 8:30 a.m., prior to the regular Commission meeting to give the public a chance to be heard. Commissioner Virden seconded the motion.

**ITEM #6 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – R.J. Cardin, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- A handout was provided to Commissioners of the minutes from the recent meeting with other agencies regarding the area.
- The various agencies attending the meeting are currently looking at a limited closure as of July this year. It is very important to have staff from all agencies visually present there and they are working to coordinate scheduling staff for the area.
- July 1 the eagle closure is ending and boat access through the Aqua Fria area will be allowed.
- With a recent accident Easter weekend in the area, R.J. Cardin asked that Captain VanAusdal speak.

- Capt. VanAusdal advised Commissioners that he was working the area that weekend and there were well over 1000 people in the area, with a couple hundred ATV's. This is too much traffic in the area and made it difficult to get to the accident area. Once he got to the scene he was with the injured man 40 minutes before emergency vehicles were able to get to the accident victim, who had a broken back.
  - The Sheriff's Department is working to have staff in the area as much as possible.
- Assistant Director, R.J. Cardin mentioned that he and Mr. Scalzo had recently met with Supervisor's Kunasek and Wilson to advise them of the situation there and show them the PowerPoint presentation. It will go before the Board of Supervisors at a later date.

**ITEM # 7– EASMENT REQUEST FOR QWEST AT USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Roxana Rojo, Project Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department - INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM**

- This item is to establish public hearing dates for the easement request from Qwest. The easement is necessary to enable Qwest to put lines to the new entry station.
- Chair, Jill Kusy confirmed that Jack Stapley had agreed to chair the upcoming public hearings. The Chair requested that a motion be made a to set the public hearing dates for May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 p.m. at Usery Mountain Regional Park and the second hearing be in conjunction with the July 10 meeting.
- The Chair requests a motion to move forward with that program. Randy Virden motions and Vice Chair, Anne Lynch second. We have a motion and a second, all in favor, none opposed the motion passes.

**ITEM # 8– CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Commissioner Lynch mentioned that she just recently learned that a member of the Commission had been a Park Ranger at White Tank. That of course is Commissioner Randy Virden.
- Tina informed everyone that it was Director Scalzo's birthday tomorrow and we had provided cake today to celebrate.

**Item # 9 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None.

**Item # 10 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

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William C. Scalzo, Director/Secretary

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Jill Kusy, Chair