

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

LOCATION: 234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Kusy, Anne Lynch, Laurel Arndt, Salomon Leija, Jack Stapley

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Randy Virden

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Darci Kinsman, Park Supervisor – Lake Pleasant; Rhonda Woodward, Administrative Supervisor; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Melanie Brown, Grant Coordinator; Amelia Sowers, HR/Payroll liaison; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator and Recorder; 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 July 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 at 8:45 a.m.

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

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE May 8, 2007 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Stapley motioned to approve the minutes with Commissioner Leija moving to second. All were in favor, the motion carried.

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

- As noted in the Director's Summary, Mr. Scalzo stepped down from the Director position with Parks and he will continue on as Assistant County Manager. As of July 2nd Mr. Cardin was promoted to the Director position.
- The Board of Supervisors approved the recommended fee increase on June 20, 2007. It was noted, however, that Supervisor Stapley amended the recommendation to remove the "per archer" shooting fee. Supervisor Wilcox asked for a review of the number of archers paying only the entry fees after three months and report back to the Board of Supervisors at the time.

- At Usery Mountain Regional Park the new entry station is nearly complete. It is the last entry station. Director noted how professional the parks look with the new entry stations and monument signs.
- The first phase of the El Rio project has been completed and 400 new trees have been planted along the Gila River. That area is within the Estrella Park boundaries.
- At White Tank, an Arizona Game and Fish Grant has been submitted to attempt to rebuild the old well and windmill at the horse staging area to create a wildlife viewing pond. The viewing pond at Usery is now complete and operational.
- The Desert Outdoor Center is well under way with its summer aquatics program. Kudos to all staff for helping make this program a wonderful success.
- Media; Dawna has been working hard on positive press. There has been very little negative press. The Arizona Republic had an editorial written by Kathleen Ingley that came out the day before our fees went before the Board of Supervisors. The headline read 'Pay \$6.00 to use County Parks, Gladly'. It was a very positive article. One of the Supervisors did mention the article during the meeting.
- We are uploading new maps on the website. Fareed has been working on various updates as additions and changes are made to trails.
- Chair Kusy mentioned that though she knew Bill's retirement was imminent, it came as a shock when she read the Director Summary. She noted that she is sad to see Bill go as he has been here for so long and she is pleased to have R.J. here.
- Commissioner Stapley agreed that Bill will be missed. Commissioner Stapley asked who sponsored the fireworks at Lake Pleasant on July 3rd. Director Cardin stated that we do not sponsor the fireworks but we assist with crowd control and traffic. Park Supervisor, Darci Kinsman responded that the Maricopa Water District and the City of Peoria sponsor the fireworks.

ITEM #6 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING OF THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – Jennifer Waller, Superintendent and Darci Kinsman, Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION ITEM (Items # 5 and # 6 were switched around during the meeting.)

- Jennifer Waller provided a copy of the minutes to all the Commissioners from the last meeting of the planning group for the Aqua Fria area. There have been two meetings since the last Commission meeting.
- The July 1st closure for the area was implemented as planned. We are pleased, so far, with how things are going with the closure.
- Darci Kinsman noted that as of July 3rd all new signage was set up and she reviewed pictures of the area with the Commissioners. Commissioner Stapley asked if we made up the signs for the area or if the Department of the Interior did. Park Supervisor Kinsman stated that parks made up the signs and the Department of Interior had a contractor who installed the signs. Superintendent Waller noted that the Bureau of Reclamation paid for all the gates and installations.
- Commissioner Arndt asked about the signs that state "Road Closed", as the road isn't actually closed because it is open to foot traffic. She feels that it should be clarified to say the roads are closed to motorized vehicles. Superintendent Waller stated that she will make note of this for their future use.

- Park Supervisor Kinsman noted that there is still an issue with the rancher as there are about 150 cattle still there.
- Superintendent Waller noted that the success of this will lay in the long range plan. The next meeting with all agencies is set for July 16th. She asked the Commissioners if they are aware of groups that should get this information and to please submit that to her so they can be added to the mailing list.
- Chair Kusy asked about the media coverage. Public Information Officer, Dawna Taylor, stated that we have done a press release, along with mailings and a webpage. The City of Peoria and Arizona Game and Fish have all done a webpage with information regarding Aqua Fria area.
- Commissioner Leija asked that since the bald eagles were removed from the endangered list will parks still enforce the area at the Lake. Director Cardin stated that yes, as parks has an agreement with Game and Fish and we are committed to honoring that agreement.

ITEM #5 – REPORT REGARDING PUBLIC HEARING ON THE EASEMENT REQUEST FROM QWEST FOR USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Jack Stapley, Commissioner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM*

- Commissioner Jack Stapley, Chair of the Sub Committee reviewed the information provided at the public hearing and noted that the two required hearings were held. There is minimal impact and that staff supports the easement request and he is recommending it going forward to the Board of Supervisors.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned to approve the easement request from Qwest and grant the easement, Commissioner Leija seconded All were in favor, none opposed the recommendation to grant the easement and it will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

ITEM #7 – SYSTEM STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN UPDATE – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM*

- Director R.J. Cardin provided a handout to all of the Commissioners of a PowerPoint presentation. He wanted to provide an update to the Commission on the plan.
- Slides reviewing the community summary of findings were discussed. These covered strengths and weaknesses, what the opportunities are, as well as program and facility needs.
- There were preliminary big moves that the consulting team discussed in detail with the department. If any of the Commissioners want more information, Director Cardin said he would be happy to review it with them.
- The Consulting team is working on the next steps. Work sessions are going to be done with staff, and Director Cardin asked if any of the Commissioners would like to be included.
- Chair Kusy asked about the entitlement that was mentioned and what that covered. Director Cardin mentioned that certain small user groups can dominate policy direction and take control of a park to the detriment of the larger public.
- Commissioner Stapley asked about bringing the information together and making it fit with parks. Commissioner Arndt stated that what we are reviewing are the consulting team's findings.
- All Commissioners want to be involved in some work sessions for the plan. Director Cardin stated that he will be in contact with the Consulting team on future dates and will contact everyone.

ITEM #8– BOND FOR PARKS AND RECREATION – R.J. Cardin, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Director Cardin briefed the Commissioners regarding a Parks Bond issue, and that we would not be working with another agency. Parks has met with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Finance. They are both very supportive of a Parks Bond. Department staff had also met with the elections department and they recommend getting together a Bond Committee. The Bond Committee would help Parks to generate the money needed to educate the public about the bond and help set priorities for spending if a bond were approved.
- Director Cardin mentioned that he recently attended a Bond meeting with Pima County to observe how it is organized there.
- Chair Kusy stated that a Parks Bond is long overdue. Pima County completed one in 2004 and now is completing another for 2008.
- Members of the Commission indicated strong support for a Park Bond Election.
- Commissioner Arndt requested that Commissioners get a list of who we can use to support parks and bring this list back to the next meeting.

ITEM # 9– CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Commissioner Lynch asked to clarify the next meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 14.

Item # 10 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None.

Item # 11 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Jill Kusy, Chair