

**Parks and Recreation Board  
General Meeting  
December 12, 2008  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

MINUTES OF THE **Special Meeting** OF THE **Parks and Recreation Board** held on **December 12, 2008** in the **Parks and Recreation Administration Office** located at **125 N. Arizona St.**, Prescott, Arizona.

**1. Roll Call–**

**Members Present:** Bob Bockrath, Michael King, Janelle Riedl, Joe Baynes, Ali Schroeder.

**Others Present:** Debbie Horton, Diana Fister, Eric Smith, Michelle Stacy.

**2. Summary of Issues–**

No issues to report

**3. Reorganization of Parks and Recreation**

Debbie Horton reported the reorganization of Parks and Recreation. Diana Fister will be handling the day-to-day operations in the Grace Sparkes Activity Center and the Recreation Programming office. Eric Smith will now be in charge of Parks and Lakes and Rudy Baranko will be the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation.

**4. Board Tour- Trails/ Open Space**

**Prescott Downtown Greenways-** This project started about 10 years ago. The purpose of this trail system is to enable people to gain access to different areas of Prescott through walking, biking or running. Once completed, it will connect Mile High Middle School to Yavapai College, the College to the VA Hospital, and the VA to Yavapai Regional Medical center. Most work done on the trail system was done in-house by parks staff, as well as partnerships with local non-profit groups such as Prescott Creeks and Open Space Alliance. The project has been constructed in three phases.

Phase one started about eight years ago with a trail around Granite Creek Park. The trail crosses under the Montezuma Street overpass and continues to the Sam Hill building and old railroad bridge as well as northbound to Miller Creek Road. Only 2/3 of the bridge is open to the public. The land adjacent to the trail is owned by APS. Due to contamination the soil had to be removed about ten years ago and new soil was brought in from Willow Lake.

Phase two connects the trail from Miller Valley Road down to Mile High Middle School. The trail goes under Gurley Street and along the Granite Creek behind the Dinner Bell restaurant. The next phase will connect Granite Creek Park to Yavapai College and up to the new Highway 69/89 interchange and Frontier Village.

**Stricklin Park-** This four-acre open natural park has a trail that runs along the Hassayampa Golf Course and ties in with both the Butte Creek and National Forest trail systems. At one time the park was heavily used by equestrian traffic. There is a large riparian area and archeological site with benches as well as an ADA accessible loop trail.

**Flinn Park-** This is a small neighborhood park on Josephine Street. The grass playing area and play area safety surface are in need of resurfacing. The bathroom facility is closed during the winter months and the running water is turned off. Besides the grassy and play areas, the park is equipped with a Ramada and outdoor basketball half-court.

**James McCasland Park/ Willow Creek Dog Park-** These parks are located off of Willow Creek Road. Amenities include a multi-use sports field with new lights, Ramada, play area, and trail head. Land adjacent to the park is leased by Prescott Dirt, LLC. Major issues for these parks are lack of grass at the dog park and water drainage. A dirt berm is in place to divert the water around the park instead of over the safety surface in the play area. The trail connects with the Willow Lake and Pioneer Park trail systems.

**Heritage Park/ Willow Lake-** This 137-acre area includes four multi-use sports fields, two large Ramadas, play area, a covered archeological site, boat dock, and trail system. Heritage ball fields one and two will receive donated scoreboards. The department is hoping to install a guard rail along the road that runs adjacent to ball fields three and four. The bathrooms at the ballfield have been winterized.

The trail system starts at the boat ramp and almost completely surrounds the lake. There is a small cove portion of the lake that is privately owned and prohibits the completion of the loop. The trail leads into the Granite Dells area and is marked by dots. This “dot” trail splits into two trails, each about a mile long. Along the trail you can cross a hand-made rock bridge. The hope is to eventually have the trail connect with the open space properties to the north (James) and to the west (Wilkinson) and the Hisokota property.

**Watson Lake Park-** This 40-acre park includes two ramadas, grassy area, play area, horseshoe complex, bocce ball courts, and in the summer months, canoe and kayak rentals. Also in the summer months, camping is available Thursday through Monday nights. There are three bathrooms at the lake with the one closest to the lower campsite being winterized and open all year. There is a weather station located on the west side of the grassy area. To access the information gathered at the weather station please go to <http://ag.arizona.edu/azmet/threone.htm> .

The lake also features the beginning of the “Discovery” trail into the Watson Woods Riparian Reserve, which connects to the Peavine Trail. Along the banks of the lake are Cottonwood and Willow saplings. These are soaking in the water for later replanting by Prescott Creeks. There is an diversion ditch at the lake that helps

divert water to Willow Lake that was built by Public Works. The lake is heavily used throughout the year for company picnics, special events and weddings. The Astronomy Club of Prescott uses the park monthly for their Starry Nights presentations.

**Vista Park-** This new park entices visitors with two synthetic grass areas, trail, bathroom, Ramada and two age-appropriate play areas. The most recent play area, completed two weeks ago, is for children aged two to five years, and was completed as an Eagle-Scout project. Both play areas are ADA compliant. The bathroom is equipped with a heating surface under the floor which helps to heat the water in the sinks. The trail begins at the park and heads up the hill to the top of the mesa. Once at the top visitors can view ancient Indian petroglyphs.

**Open Space-** The board took a brief tour of several open space properties and trails in the west Prescott area. Most notable were the Peavine trail and the Granite Gardens/ Hazelwood property. The Peavine Trail runs the path of the old Santa Fe railroad, which was abandoned in 1983. The trail can be accessed at Side Road, off of Hwy. 89A, Sundog Ranch Road and Watson Lake. The land was bought ten years ago with federal grant money. The City was able to preserve all the original bridges and fences along the trail that eventually meets up with the Iron King Trail to Prescott Valley.

The Granite Gardens/Hazelwood property is 38-acres of open space located on the east side of Highway 89. At one time a lake existed on the property but has since been drained. New trees were planted and are set for watering by a drip system. The area is highly used for rock climbing.

## **5. Adjournment- 3:50pm**

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**Bob Bockrath**, Chairman

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**Michelle Stacy**