

**Parks and Recreation Board
General Meeting
September 19, 2013
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

MINUTES OF THE **General Meeting** OF THE **Parks and Recreation Board** held on **September 19, 2013** in the **Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center, Flagstone Room** located at **824 E. Gurley St.**, Prescott, Arizona.

1. Roll Call & Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2013

Members Present: Wayne Howell, Janelle Riedl, Mike King, Ted Blake and Tom Dwyer

Others Present: Joe Baynes, Eric Smith, Michelle Stacy-Schroeder, Rick Hormann, Tim Legler, Chris Hosking, Kelly Tolbert and Councilman Chris Kuknyo

Motion made by Wayne Howell to accept the minutes from May 9, 2013 as written. Motion was seconded by Mike King. Motion passed unanimously- all approved.

- 2. Field Use Fees** – Michelle Stacy-Schroeder explained that there has been an influx of field usage in the past few months. Quite a few of the requests have come from groups outside of Prescott. In 2009, when the Department went to locking the fields unless there were reservations, the Department increased their field usage fee. Currently, Prescott residents pay \$30 for every four hours of use and pay \$15 per hour for lights. Non-residents pay \$38 for every four hours of use and \$19 per hour for lights. The Department is looking to increase the fees as follows:

Residents- \$40 for every four hours; \$20 per hour for lights

Non-Residents- \$75 for every four hours; \$24 per hour for lights

Currently co-sponsored youth groups have priority over other reservations, except for City Leagues. Michelle showed a cost comparison for field usage from across the State and Prescott sits at the lower end.

Board members question the amount of increase for non-residents and what the annual comparison is. Michelle stated that she will have a cost analysis available at the next meeting.

- 3. P & R Reorganization-** Joe explained starting October 1, 2013 the Antelope Hills Golf Course will fall under the direction of Parks and Recreation. With that the Parks and Recreation Department will change its name to Recreation Services. With the change, golf course maintenance will remain under Recreation Services but the pro shop, restaurant, Centennial Center and driving range will be put out to bid. Joe explained that in recent years the golf course has lost revenue and the idea of putting the course in the private sector will reduce payroll expense and the City will no longer have to subsidize the deficit. RFP bids

are expected to be done within the first two weeks of October. All proposals will be evaluated and submitted to Council for approval. Joe also stated that he may bring the proposals to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for input

4. Project updates

- a. **Goldwater Lake**- Eric Smith informed the Board that the expansion project will start this week as Fann Contracting beat out three other bids to win the contract. City Council approved the contract for \$847,000. Eric explained that the Department hopes to have it completed by winter. Once the pavilions, water system and drill are done, the Department will add day picnic areas with bbq's and tables. A well will be drilled and that can take up to three weeks.
- b. **Prescott Great Outdoors**- Eric informed the Board that the Department will be holding an outdoor festival October 12-13. This festival will have 23 non-profits, new exhibits and more family friendly activities such as a kid's fishing tank and a zip-line.
- c. **Greenways Phase III**- Eric Smith explained that he has been working property owners in regards to right of way access along the Greenways Trail. Eric hopes to submit a package of information to the City Council in November and then move forward with connecting the trail to Miller Creek and the Rodeo Grounds and building a pedestrian and bike path.
- d. **Willow Lake Archeological Pits**- Eric Smith informed the Board that the Board that the Department and the Archeological Society will be doing some improvements to the archeological sites at the Willow Lake north shore pit house. The hopes are to advertise it in the spring.

5. Division Reports

- a. **Sports & Recreation** – Rick reported City-league softball had 148 teams playing from May through August, and summer City-league basketball had 28 teams playing from June through August. Rick also explained that fall volleyball was gearing up to start in September.

Rick stated that he and Michelle Stacy-Schroeder were gearing up to start on the 2014 calendar of sporting events. 2013 tournaments were affected greatly by monsoons, however Rick explained that the 2013 calendar was busier than ever.

Rick also reported that the Special Needs Activity Program (SNAP) is busy with monthly dances, bingo, and swimming. Rick stated that there have been a few concerns with the program but he will be having a caregivers meeting in October to get input from special needs caregivers and participants alike.

Activity Center activities are increasing. The Armory has added usage this year to include P.E. classes from charter schools in the immediate area and contract instructed classes.

- b. **Parks Maintenance-** Tim Legler reported that new weather stations have been installed at Memorial Island and at Kuebler Field. These stations measure humidity, the heat index and rain. It lets the Department know if turf areas need to be watered more or less. The installation also included updated software.

More entryway sidewalk was added to Pioneer Park. This was a project that was already in the operating budget but the project waited for the end of City league and the start of youth sports in the fall. The tournament schedule is winding down which means that seasonal staff will thin out.

Tim informed the Board that the Department budgeted \$50,000.00 for sealant for the Skate park. Tim was happy to express that the project was done in-house for less than \$10,000.00.

- c. **Lakes** – Tim Legler reported that the new playground donated by the Kiwanis Club of Prescott has been installed. He reported that special events with in the lakes have increased in 2013, especially at Watson Lake.
- d. **Community Restitution and Park Rangers-** Kelly Tolbert reported that there are currently 17 volunteer Park Rangers. She explained that one had recently resigned. She also said that she has not recruited for new Rangers but there are 15 people on the wait list. She stated that she has been working with the Police Department to try and streamline the process. She explained that the Rangers have been helping man the kiosks at the Lakes during the busy summer weekends.

Kelly explained that she has also begun working with contract instructors. Currently she is working with a gentleman who does boot camp for women at 5:30am Monday through Friday. A test camp was done in August and it had so much success that he has opted to offer a 5:30am and an 8:00am class.

Trails- Chris Hosking reported that the Granite Gardens trail has been completed. It is 1.5 miles and is very family friendly. With that completion, the Mile High Trail System is up to 53 miles. Chris stated he and his volunteers are adding more loops to the Flume trail. Chris added that four more trail counters have been added to the Willow Lake trail system and to the Greenways. These calculate trail visitors daily and are a welcome addition to the counters already located on the Peavine, Constellation and Flume trails.

Chris pointed out that the trails have seen increased population with the help of special events such as the X Run 5k, which was an obstacle course through mud pits and culverts. Chris added that he hopes to see more of these events in years to come.

The Community Nature Center had its grand re-opening on September 14. New editions include a 600 foot water line for the pond, a new roof for the cabin and additional interpretive signs along the trail. The Department had help from about 150 volunteers.

6. Next Meeting – TBD

7. Adjournment

Motion made by Mike King to adjourn the meeting at 4:51pm. Motion was seconded by Ted Blake. All in favor- Motion passed unanimously in favor.



Janelle Riedl, Chairwoman



Michelle Stacy-Schroeder