

**Parks and Recreation Board
General Meeting
January 29, 2015
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

MINUTES OF THE **General Meeting OF THE Parks and Recreation Board** held on **January 29, 2015**, in the **Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center, Flagstone Room** located at **824 E. Gurley St.**, Prescott, Arizona.

1. Roll Call & Approval of Minutes from August 21, 2014

Members Present: Wayne Howell, Michael King, Ted Blake, and Tom Dwyer.

Members Not Present: Janelle Reidl

Others Present: Joe Baynes, Eric Smith, Michelle Stacy-Schroeder, Jason Olson, Chris Hosking, Steve Mancha, Albert Mendibles, Rick Hormann, Tim Legler, Bill Wheller, and Councilman Chris Kuknyo

Motion made by Tom Dwyer to accept the minutes from August 29, 2014 as written. Motion was seconded by Ted Blake. Motion passed unanimously- all approved.

2. Introduce Antelope Hills G.M. – Joe Baynes introduced the new general manager of the Antelope Hills Golf Course, Bill Wheller. Bill has worked for Billy Casper Golf for 12 years as part of their business communication division.

3. Dog Park- Joe discussed that the new and improved dog park is now open. The park averages 570 people a day. With the new park, the staff has posted new dog park rules, and Joe explained that there have been a few challenges and complaints and Joe is looking to the board for suggestions. Some of the complaints are as follows:

- a. People with service dogs wanting to train their dogs
- b. People with no dogs hanging out in the park
- c. Children under the age of 10 being in the park
- d. Small dogs not staying on the small dog side
- e. Getting rubber mats for the wooden dog agility equipment
- f. People throwing balls on sticks to their dogs
- g. No hand sanitizer at the park
- h. A request for a Starbucks
- i. No restroom onsite (except for at Willow Creek Park by Ramada)
- j. The park should only be for residents of Prescott
- k. Adding No Smoking to the list of rules

Joe did state that the department is looking to form a group of volunteers to help with minimal maintenance. Currently parks staff does the major maintenance like washing off the turf areas.

4. Adopt-A-Spot- Eric Smith explained that he has been working on an adopt-a-spot program for quite some time. The program will include parks, trails and

public areas. Eric stated that all tools would be provided by the department, but the organizations may be asked to help with supplies. Joe added that this program would be a great way to stay within our budget and foster a good partnership within the community.

Spot adopters would assist in clean up after large events, get recognition and use of a Ramada for a four hour time frame one time per year. The program could also assist in capital improvement needs. Joe Baynes has requested input from the board and would like to revisit the item at the next meeting April.

5. **Calendar of Events-** Rick Hormann passed out a copy of the 2015 Sporting Calendar of Events along with the economic impact study. Joe noted that economic impact has grown significantly over the last 5 years with 2014 bringing in an impact of \$1,888,550.00. The 2015 tournament season will be busy with the addition of two weekends for the Yavapai Soccer (youth) Cup, as well as Beat the Heat (40+ teams), Best of the West (60+ teams) and the 14U B Western Nation (expect 40+ teams) in July.

6. Project updates

- a. **Pickleball-** Joe explained that at the August 2014 meeting, the possible conversion of tennis courts at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center was discussed. Joe explained that upon further review, the existing surface is not conducive to the transition. Joe will be looking into products that can be laid on top of the existing surface that would give it more bounce.
- b. **ERAU Trail-** Chris Hosking reported that the Embry Riddle Trail has just been completed. It is 2.35 miles long and connects to the Pioneer Park Trail system. Ted Blake stated that Embry-Riddle would help to maintain that portion of the trail quarterly. His group also completed the Longview Trail which connects Williamson Valley Road to Pioneer Park.
- c. **Aerial Photo of Goldwater Lake-** Eric Smith explained that through the help of Steve Mancha and aerial photo would be taken of Goldwater Lake in the hopes of acquiring boating funds through Arizona game and Fish. This will enhance the usage at Goldwater Lake for boating and fishing from the dock. If approved, the construction would be done and then the City would be reimbursed. The proposal would have to go to City Council for approval later this year.
- d. **Jason Olson-** Steve Mancha introduced Jason Olson as a replacement for Rudy Litka. Jason has an extensive background on ball fields, irrigation, soil and drainage. He has been busy checking facilities for drainage issues, inventory of equipment, and getting the fields ready for the busy spring/summer seasons.
- e. **Playground Inspector-** Tim Legler introduced Kelly Tolbert as the new Playground Safety Inspector. Her job will be to inspect current playground

equipment and surfaces for any safety concerns and ensure that we are in compliance with regulations.

7. Division Reports

a. **Grants and Special Projects-** Eric Smith presented literature for the 2015 Prescott Great Outdoors Event, October 1-11, 2015. He announced that he is working early on his marketing strategy to get more sponsors and provide more activity during the event.

b. **Sports & Recreation** – Rick explained that the 2014 adult sports seasons went very well. He has been working with Michelle Stacy-Schroeder to come up with department goals and measures, by annotating the amount of hours city fields are used throughout the year, as well as how many youth group participants utilize the fields.

The Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center got a lot busier with the closure of the Yavapai College Gym. Rick is looking ahead to the Kiwanis Auction, Body Walk and Teen Maze events that will shut down the gym for weeks at a time.

In the downtime, Rick will work with City Facilities to do improvements such as plumbing issues, redoing the floor in December and checking the roof for leaks

b. **Parks / Lakes Maintenance-** Steve Mancha and Jason Olson explained that staff is busy getting the fields ready for the upcoming seasons. Maintenance is doing lots of little projects like replacing bases, squaring fields, updating roofs on dugouts and getting soil samples from the turf areas so that we can sustain them the best that we can.

Steve noted that on the lake side of the house, he is looking to add more barbecues, do improvements to the parking lots and add picnic tables.

Tim Legler explained to the board that OSHA was invited to do an inspection of the Maintenance facility. The department received 11 write ups and OSHA gave recommendations for fixes. Tim also added that APS did pole testing on field lights and all but one tested clear.

c. **Golf Course** – Albert Mendibles explained that Golf Maintenance staff will be working on projects through the winter. Projects include trimming trees and coming up with a way to remove the 1500 ducks from the course. Albert added that they have tried several different techniques but nothing seems to work.

d. **Trails-** Chris Hosking explained that he is still working on the Greenways trail, from Lincoln to the Rodeo grounds. He has been assisted by an

Eagle Scout as well as volunteers. Easement agreements were reached with nine property owners along Miller Creek behind the fast food restaurants.

Chris noted that in 2014 8.8 miles of trail were built, with the help of 15,000 volunteer hours. Volunteers include the Over the hill Gang, juvenile Probation, and Community restitution. Chris also noted that trail counters on 48 miles of the 70 miles of trails reported 570,000 visitors to our trails.

Joe and Chris noted that the first event on the modified Circle Trail is scheduled for April 9-12, 2015. Also, the International Mountain Bike Alliance will be in town working on trail projects through the end of February. Next week, there will be a council presentation to possibly spend open space money on an easement on Glassford Hill for parking areas associated with the Circle Trail.

- e. **Community Restitution and Park Rangers-** Michelle Stacy-Schroeder reported on behalf of Kelly Tolbert in regards to the Volunteer Park Ranger Program and the Community Service Work Program.
 - a. **Volunteer Park Rangers-** worked 295 days in 2014, with 4,529.7 hours logged in (cost savings of \$96,844.99). These hours resulted in 53 maintenance issues being reported, 107 graffiti reports, 255.5 (13 gallons) bags of trashed removed, 27 playground inspections, and 64 citations issued, which would result in \$3,520 in fines collected.
 - b. **Community Service Work Program-** 8,308 hours of community service work on city properties, at a cost saving of \$94,408 and 2,423 hours of work done at area non-profits, for a cost saving of \$43,220

8. Next Meeting – TBD

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Michael King to adjourn the meeting at 4:40pm. Motion was seconded by Tom Dwyer. All in favor- Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Janelle Riedl, Chairwoman

Michelle Stacy-Schroeder