

**Parks and Recreation Board  
General Meeting  
April 30, 2015  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

MINUTES OF THE **General Meeting** OF THE **Parks and Recreation Board** held on **April 30, 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 January 29, 2015**

**Members Present:** Wayne Howell, Ted Blake, and Tom Dwyer and Janelle Reidl.

**Members Not Present: Mike King**

**Others Present:** Joe Baynes, Eric Smith, Michelle Stacy-Schroeder, Jason Olson, Chris Hosking, Steve Mancha, Jerry Walsh, Rick Hormann, Kelly Tolbert and Bill Weller.

Motion made by Tom Dwyer to accept the minutes from January 29, 2015 as written. Motion was seconded by Wayne Howell. Motion passed unanimously- all approved.

- 2. Circle Trail Trip** – Joe Baynes explained that he and others, to include Chris Hosking, would be making a multi-day trip on 52 miles of the Circle Trail. The trip would be broken down into stages and allow for overnight camping and shuttles out for those that did not want to camp. The department is inviting land managers, county, forest and other city personnel, as well as media personnel to join in on the hike. The event will commence with a community gathering at Watson Lake on Friday evening. All are welcomed to join.
- 3. FY 2016 Budget-** Joe discussed the FY 2016 Budget that he will present to City Council. He explained that the City budget all around will be much tighter due to some unfunded liabilities. He announced that there would be two ballot measures on the August 25 election ballot that can affect the City budget. The first is a .55 of 1% increase for unfunded liabilities in the PSRS (Public Safety Retirement System). The other is for a one cent increase for Streets. Joe explained that the .55 of 1% is important because if it does not pass then the Department will have tightened belts more and cut its budget by 10%. This could result in loss of revenue, cuts in spending, closure of facilities or cancellation of leagues. Joe stated that the budget will go to Council on May 14 for adoption in June.
- 4. Antelope Hills Update-** Bill Weller, with Billy Casper Golf, stated that business is going well at the golf course. He explained that the estimated loss for fiscal year 2015 would be about \$100,000 which is significantly down from \$300,00 from fiscal year 2014. Bill stated that he expected the golf course to break even by the end of fiscal year 2016.

Bill stated that marketing efforts have increased with the Pro Shop sending out two to three emails per week through the database. He also explained that weather has helped this year, with an estimated 70,000 rounds expected by the end of the year. The restaurant has also done exceptionally well, with a \$180,000 turnaround and the Centennial Center averaging 15 events per month. Bill stated that the Pro Shop would be changing its strategy in the coming months, by reducing inventory and getting costs in line with trends.

5. **Adopt-A-Spot-** Eric Smith spoke about the updated information regarding the Adopt-A-Spot program since the last meeting. Eric explained that large community groups have assisted with one day projects and it is the goal of the program to find corporate sponsors to help with capital improvement projects. Eric reiterated that the program needs to be structured and all sponsors need to follow the rules and regulations set forth in the program.

The program will consist of filling out an application and following the first 13 items on the checklist. Each sponsor would sign up for a two year commitment and after six months, the Department would do advertisement for the sponsor. The sponsor would then receive one ½ day rental at a Ramada.

Eric is reaching out to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for input on ideas of how to get the program off its feet and be beneficial to both the sponsors and the City.

## 6. Project updates

- a. **Camp Host at Watson-** Joe explained that two part time staff to be camp hosts at Watson Lake. They will help to maintain the camp areas, assist with the kiosks during peak hours, days and events. They will stay at Watson Lake in their own camper.
- b. **Playgrounds-** Kelly Tolbert is working diligently to get all city playgrounds in compliance with top surface. She has already updated playgrounds at Heritage, Peppertree, and Granite Creek Parks as well as at Goldwater Lake. Kelly stated that she has been approached by Kiwanis Club of Prescott to enter a Kiwanis International contest for \$25,000 for new playground equipment. Kelly stated that she is looking at Pioneer Park, if chosen, because of its antiquated equipment.
- c. **Trail-** Chris Hosking explained that the Circle Trail has been completed. The last portions were from Highway 69 to the Turley Trail under the "P" Mountain.

## 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 2015 adult sports seasons are very busy. There were a total of 30 teams registered for spring volleyball and 148 teams (as of today) signed up for softball. This year the fast-pitch league will use wooden bats.

The tournament calendar is full with 28 events this year and the Department anticipates a growing economic impact with the help of these tournaments, to include a week long 14U B Western National youth softball tournament. Rick stated that he is actively looking for additional events when the calendar is slower.

The Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center got a lot busier with the Kiwanis Auction, Body Walk and Teen Maze events that shut down the gym for weeks at a time.

Special Needs continues to hold dances, bingo and craft nights. Their prom is scheduled for May 16. Sherri Gates, the program coordinator, has also been working with Special Olympics.

Michelle Stacy-Schroeder has been busy with field rental requests. She is also gearing up for the 2015 Senior Olympic Games in August.

- b. Parks / Lakes Maintenance-** Steve Mancha and Jason Olson explained that staff is busy getting the fields ready for the upcoming seasons. Pioneer Park has been re-leveled and squared up. Kuebler has new sod, after the removal of sod from Ken Lindley. Bill Valley fields were hit hard by storms last summer so maintenance will re-sod and paint in the spring. Bill valley also has a new backstop. Summer part time staff has been hired with an additional 2 to 5 more in the coming weeks. Senior Softball made a donation to help purchase new bases, field tools and for work on the entry way at Pioneer Park.

Steve noted that on the lake side of the house, restrooms at Goldwater and Watson were remodeled and they look great. All work was done in house with materials already in our inventory. Also, a volunteer at the bocce ball courts donated money for new benches.

- c. Golf Course** – Jerry Walsh reported that the adopt-a-spot at the golf course is going great. There are a handful of people doing volunteer work on Tuesdays. They call themselves the Pronghorns.

Jerry explained that there was a pump crisis in which two out of four pumps failed which caused a loss of 400,000 gallons per night until it was

fixed. The issue was caused by an APS power surge that fried the control. Jerry stated that the pumps are fixed and the course has recovered.

- d. **Trails-** Chris Hosking announced that the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the City of Prescott Trail and Outdoor Recreation map has been released. It is the most requested item at the Prescott Chamber of Commerce. Over 50,000 maps were handed out last year. Chris also announced that there is application you can purchase on your phone that can give GPS coordinates while on the trails.
- e. **Community Restitution and Park Rangers-** Kelly Tolbert explained that the Community restitution program is in its third year with parks and Recreation. The crews are used heavily throughout the City and Judge Markham is a huge fan of its success.
  - a. **Volunteer Park Rangers-** Kelly announced that the Rangers have been helping out at the Lakes, but know that there is a camp host they can focus their attention to other areas that need help, like park patrols.

#### 8. Next Meeting – TBD

#### 9. Adjournment

Motion made by Tom Dwyer to adjourn the meeting at 4:32pm. Motion was seconded by Ted Blake. All in favor- Motion passed unanimously in favor.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janelle Riedl, Chairwoman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Stacy-Schroeder