

**Parks and Recreation Board  
General Meeting  
August 21, 2014  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

MINUTES OF THE **General Meeting** OF THE **Parks and Recreation Board** held on **August 21, 2014**, 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 1, 2014**

**Members Present:** Wayne Howell, Janelle Riedl, and Tom Dwyer.

**Members Not Present: Michael King and Ted Blake**

**Others Present:** Joe Baynes, Eric Smith, Michelle Stacy-Schroeder, Rudy Litka, Chris Hosking, Kelly Tolbert, Rick Hormann, Jerry Walsh, Tim Legler, John Fairall, Jerry Northwood, Claudene Northwood, Bob Atherton, Ben Sialega, and Charlene Craig

Motion made by Tom Dwyer to accept the minutes from May 1, 2014 as written. Motion was seconded by Wayne Howell. Motion passed unanimously- all approved.

- 2. Pickleball Presentation** – Jerry Northwood and the local Pickleball Association made a presentation to the Recreation Services Department on the growing sport of pickleball and the importance of having public courts in Prescott. They made a proposal for the transformation of two courts located at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center into eight pickleball courts. They stressed that the economic impact of holding four tournaments a year would be \$195,000. Currently there are no public courts in the area, but 10 privately run courts. Joe Baynes expressed that the current courts need to be evaluated to see if a transformation is feasible and it will be discussed at a later date.
- 3. Acker Park Presentation-** Charlene Craig, with the Friends of Acker Park Association, made a presentation to the Department regarding the closing of their 501c3 non-profit status and the remaining funds that they have. They are considering making a monetary donation to the City or recommend ear marking approximately \$50,000 in an agreement with the city for future repairs to Acker Park, such as fixing trail erosion, improved signage and drainage issues. Charlene expressed that she and other members would still be interested in helping and organizing in any projects.
- 4. Dog Park-** Joe Baynes explained that earlier in the year a local resident entered a contest and won a \$500,000 award from Beneful Dog Food for an improved dog park. The improved dog park will be located in the existing Willow Creek Dog Park area. A conceptual design packet was handed out to board members. Plans include water features, special canine artificial turf, and a firefighter theme. Joe explained that the water features would be set on timers and will be monitored.

## 5. Project updates

- a. **Prescott Circle Trail-** Chris Hosking explained that the portion of the trail from Sundog Ranch Road to Highway 69 was completed in May. The next portion to be worked on and completed will be from Pioneer Park Trails to Williamson Valley Road. Chris explained that this .8 mile stretch will be done with the help of the Over-the-Hill Gang and Community Restitution.
- b. **Ken Lindley Field-** Tim Legler explained that Careescape has started laying the sod at Ken Lindley in anticipation of the 2014 NJCAA National Soccer tournament in November. In preparation, City staff has removed five inches of soil from the infield. Tim explained that the sod will need two to three weeks to seed.

## 6. Division Reports

- a. **Grants and Special Projects-** Eric Smith spoke about the 2014 Prescott great outdoors event scheduled for October 11-12, 2014 at Watson Lake. This year the event will host international speaker and local resident, Cody Lundin, as well as an improved kids fishing area, thanks to a \$5,000 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Prescott.

Eric discussed that he is in conversation with the Prescott National Forest for a proposed 50 acre camping are at Goldwater Lake. Eric expressed that the conversation is in the beginning stage and would not be considered until at least two years from now.

Eric updated the Board on the Greenways Trail easements. Eric explained that Council approved the trail right-of-way package that included easements from ten property owners and building is underway. Eric has started working on right-of-way easements with the Arizona State Land Trust and the Arizona Department of game and Fish as well.

Eric discussed a future discussion with City Council on remaining funds in the open space account and available open space parcels.

- b. **Sports & Recreation** – Rick explained that the summer season was very busy for the recreation staff. He informed the Board that the Department has a new secretary named Samara Rice-Cummings and she is a great fit.

City league softball is still going on, due in part to the rain and the cancellations during the season for tournament prep. City league basketball has ended and it finished with 27 teams. Next up will be city league volleyball, which currently has 40 teams registered to play.

The tournament schedule is in full swing. Rick explained that this weekend a new tournament was added for youth softball and it will host 21 teams.

Rick explained that the City Facilities Department is working on improvements for the Armory. Plans include new heating and air conditioning, motion sensor faucets in the women's restroom and an overhead projector in the Flagstone Room.

The SNAP (Special Needs program) continues to hold their monthly dances and bingo, along with swimming and weight training at the YMCA. Rick discussed a possible partnership with Special Olympics for basketball practices.

Michelle Stacy-Schroeder discussed the 2014 Senior Games, held during the month of August. She explained that participation increased in all events from 2013, but that the highlight was the softball tournament. Michelle explained that this year there were 26 teams, all women, participating in the two day tournament. Teams came from Michigan, Ohio, California, New Mexico, Texas, Maryland, Nevada and five teams from Arizona.

- b. **Parks Maintenance-** Rudy Litka reported that a busy tournament season, field usage will slow down a little. He reported that from all the rain, turf in all areas is looking good. Rudy stated that his seasonal staff is getting ready to go back to school, with just a few remaining through the youth soccer and football season.
- c. **Golf Course** – Joe Baynes explained that in May, Billy Casper Golf took over operations of the Antelope Hills Golf Course. In July they reported 8,265 rounds, which was 7,000 more than the same month in 2013. John Fairall informed the Board that they have instituted a \$79 pass for golfers and it has been a successful marketing tool, with approximately 500 people purchasing a card.

Jerry Walsh reported that the maintenance division is working on deep well operations on the south greens

- d. **Trails-** Eric Smith reported that several trails were damaged by the heavy rain the area received. He is working diligently to repair the trails and some of the bridges.

Eric also reported that the trail counters discussed at the May meeting have shown increased usage, with 107,000 visitors to the Constellation, Flume and Peavine trails over a three month period. Along with those three counters, Eric explained that there are four others that are moved around. Eric explained that with the current trend and increase usage, the trails can expect to have had over 400,000 visitors by year end.

- e. **Community Restitution and Park Rangers-** Kelly Tolbert reported that in the two years since the R4creation Services Department has been in control of the Community Service Program, it has resulted in \$138,000 in savings to the City.

Kelly reported that the volunteer ranger program has created a \$48,000 annual savings to the City due to their help in managing the kiosks at the lakes and reporting vandalism issues. To thank the Department volunteers, the Department will hold a barbeque.

**7. Next Meeting – TBD**

**8. Adjournment**

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

for Michael King  
Janelle Riedl, Chairwoman  
Vice-Chair

Michelle Stacy Schroeder  
Michelle Stacy-Schroeder