



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF PRESCOTT PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

**City of Prescott Parks & Rec Board
General Meeting
Thursday, February 20th 2020
3:00 p.m.**

**Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center
Flagstone Room
824 E. Gurley St
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA
(928) 777-1122**

Minutes of the Recreation Services Board Meeting held on Thursday, February 20th, 2020 in the Flagstone Room, located at 824 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, Arizona.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Travers called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Parks and Recreation Board Members and Liaisons

Present

Excused/Absent

Peg Travers
Chris Welborn
Linda Nichols
Tom Dwyer

Sherri Hanna

Council Liaison
Councilwoman Alexa Scholl

Staff Present
Staff Liaison, Samara Rice
Recreation Services Director, Joe Baynes
Rick Hormann
Randy Picard
Larry Stephens
Albert Mendibles
Tim Legler
Michelle Stacey-Schroeder

3. Approval of October 31, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chris Welborn made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes of **October 31, 2019**. Tom Dwyer seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

4. Board Member Updates

Linda Nichols updated on the Dog Park. There is a website with a donation button as well as the "brick" program. Bricks can be purchased in honor of your dog for \$100 per brick and once there are 5 or 6 bricks purchased a staff member will begin to place them at the dog park. She will be getting with Kelly regarding posters to be hung out at the

park. Tom Dwyer and Joe Baynes both stated they would purchase a brick. Prescottdogpark.com is the website to go to.

Tom Dwyer did not have any updates.

Chris Welborn – wanted to emphasize the trails as being such a gem. Kudos to Chris Hoskings, and the trails team. He mentioned that since the Constellation Trail has paid parking he has noticed people leaving their used parking passes for the next person to use without paying. Larry Stephens mentioned that it is something that is traceable and we have contacted Annual Park users who have done that to let them know they must not do that.

Peg Travers mentioned how the Prescott Pickleball courts will be having a dedication ceremony on April 3rd at 3pm. She also mentioned how there are more families out enjoying the courts and the intent is to create even more social events at the courts. The big "Round-up" event will be May 29th and they are hoping for at least 300.

5. Granite Creek Corridor Master plan

Tyler Goodman, assistant to the City Manager, said discussions regarding the Granite Creek Corridor began in 2018 with stakeholders, interested residents, city staff and elected officials. It was decided to do a Master Plan and that the Arizona Water Protection Fund has grant money for corridors and greenways systems. A consultant was hired; National Chanel Design out of Flagstaff, to craft a proposal and a grant was received for \$79,000. There has been a lot of scientific analysis done in the last year.

There were three public meetings held, and a survey that had over 600 respondents answer questions regarding use of a corridor, safety concerns, etc.

The location is north of the Granite Creek Park, and it's about a mile long, 7' wide corridor with water in an urban setting. The goals are: restore the beauty, usability of the trail, opportunities to understand the culture, the history, access, safety, reduce the risk of flood areas for the businesses along the creek. The objectives he said they wanted to use data to create the plan. They plan to use open houses to get public input and use those to create the master plan. The master plan provides over all assessment of what is going on. It talks about the vegetation, the creek health and functionality, the trail, quality of the habitat and so on.

Tyler mentioned the use of cross-vein-weirs and explained that they are made out of rocks and natural materials that helps disperse the energy of the water, prevents erosion and keeps it within a channel so it doesn't go out and destroy the banks. Consultant has recommended seven locations for cross-vein-weirs to be installed.

Split channel creates a lot of damage, a lot of Siberian Elms causing issues. Reduce the amount of elms and replace with more natural trees and vegetations over many years.

Amenities were discussed as improving access to the trail at all cross streets. Increase connectivity to other trails, food, shopping. Tom asked about signage to direct visitors from downtown to the corridor. Tyler discussed a retaining wall, adding lighting and signage to it. The intent is to keep it as natural as possible and to maximize safety as well.

Public works identified vegetation that could be removed by volunteers with the Over The Hill Gang and fire crews. Consultants said anything in the understory that is not destroying the canopy could be removed. Chris Hoskings mentioned how the removal allows more native species to grow.

Total cost estimate for all enhancements, all improvements is 1.75 millions dollars. Riperion area – at least seven cross vein-weirs, repairing split channels, flood plane work, rock wall, bank protection etc, 582,000. Storm-water outfall (zuni bowls - help keep the water from eroding all the ground underneath where the water is coming out), splash pad, earthwork, etc, 106,000. Trail and corridor improvements, trail service from Aubrey to Willis, replace access points, ADA access, concrete ramps at Goodwin, retaining wall work and other things just over 600,000. Amenities include lighting, signage, benches, potential small Ramada, etc in the corridor right at 443,000.

In the Master Plan the consultants identified about eight funding sources. Joe and Tyler also discussed state land and water conservation grant program. Once approved by council funding resources will be sought. It was brought up mentioned that the Granite Creek Corridor will go to council the Tuesday following the meeting.

The consultants have said this is something that could be staged out over some time, possibly decades. This will prevent destruction of the overstory canopy and maintain the natural approach of replacing with vegetations that would thrive in that corridor. The time frame is based on the approval, and the funding. The hope is to start work in it this year.

Linda Nichols inquired as to if it will be considered a park and fall under the “parks no-smoking regulations.” The question as to if there will be pet-stations and if animals were permitted on the trail was also asked. Joe Baynes is unclear as to where the trail will fall under the “smoking” rules but will follow-up on it as time progresses. Dogs will be permitted on the corridor on leashes and there should be pet waste stations.

Joe said ideally the corridor would be connected all the way out to White Spar Campground but this is something that will definitely take awhile. He also said that linking it out the other side of Granite Creek beyond 6th street through the reservation to the Peavine Trail and eventually Chino Valley and Prescott Valley.

6. West Granite Creek Park Improvements

Joe discussed that West Granite Creek Park is somewhat where the Community Garden use to be, west of the new hotel. There will be a playground off Montezuma with the splash pad. The West Granite Creek park improvements will be on the other side of the creek as discussed at the last meeting. The Farmers Market or at minimum a smaller version of the farmers market will be able to utilize this community space. There will be an event pad available for multiple uses, music performances, etc.

The plan is to improve the area as a community space with as many use options possible. Farmers Market, Greenways Corridor, walk around downtown, playground, splash pad, picnic areas. We are looking at \$250,000 in the big scheme of things it's not a lot of money considering the benefits. It will really be an extension of Granite Creek Park. Providing the space to the public will ultimately clean up the area. The plans are currently submitted to the city. It is conceivable to have it built by July or August.

Parking concerns were addressed. A study was done and there are approximately 800 parking spaces within 800 feet of the park. The parking garage has 500 spots as well.

7. Lower Goldwater Lake Project Timeline

This project is partially funded in this FY budget. It is a 1.2 to 1.3 million dollar project. Funded for 800,000 in this FY and anticipate the remainder to come in FY21. Construction has been pushed back a little to bridge the fiscal years. Kelly Wise is the Engineer. Go out to bid in May, Council June and may be completed in Fall of 2020.

There will be a little road built from the kiosk (pay shack) that goes over and connects to the Forest Service road going down to Lower Goldwater. There will be about 160 parking spots, restroom, day use areas and a Ramada is in the future. The additional parking will benefit both areas and allow more people to enjoy the parks. It's 140 acre park in totality. The trail will eventually go all around both lakes.

There is a caretaker house built in the late 20's or early 30's and continues to be inhabited by a city employee. Mitigated water treatment plant issues. In the future the houses may be turned in to rentals for weddings, or special events.

Linda Nichols asked about the potential of an RV park. Joe stated the City is always in support of private sector developing one.

8. Recognition for Service

Joe Baynes expressed appreciation the city has for all the members of the board and wanted to recognize Tom Dwyer for his 6 years of service on the board. He has been on many advisory committees and is a strong supporter of the community. He will be missed on the Parks and Rec Advisory Board.

Tom Dwyer spoke of how "the work ethics of the Parks Department blow his mind." He is amazed that despite the growth of the parks and trails, there doesn't seem to be growth in staff. He stated how impressed he is with Joe's leadership. He stated that it seems the team does twice as much in half the time in order to get everything done.

Peg Travers encourages the members to become more involved in the Special Events put on through the City and do more for Parks and Rec.

9. Division Reports

o Special events updates

- Michelle Stacy-Schroeder provided the 2020 Special Event calendar. There are 63 events scheduled for the year and we typically get 67-70. The big one this year is going to be the Arizona High School Rodeo finals the beginning of June. Hasn't been held in Prescott for over 10 years. Kids from all over the state.
- In the past special event season has kicked off with the Whiskey-Off-Road end of April. Starting earlier with more cycling and running races in March and beginning of April.
- Still having Summer Concert Series on the square, adding Movies under the Stars Friday nights at Ken Lindley Field. May 29th – 1st weekend in August.
- Some events will not be coming back due to staffing issues within the organization putting them on – Shoot-Out on Whiskey Row, Mile High Brew Fest.
- The Veterans Day parade (the only event the city puts on) has grown significantly since 2013. Last year there were 97 participants and the City of

PHX had 99. Hoping to make it the biggest by increasing participation each year.

- Events requiring an event boss by the city might make for a good opportunity for the members to shadow. Reach out to Michelle if interested.
- Events are on the city Website and Michelle keeps it updated regularly.

○ **Sports programming updates**

- **Rick Hormann** distributed handouts first reviewing the 2019 sporting events showing 37 tournaments with a 2.7 million dollar direct spending/ 6.4 million Economic Impact. Over the past ten years showed to increase youth events and visitation. Peg Travers inquired about what a 2.33 multiplier is. Joe explained that the 2.33 multiplier is an estimate of how many times the dollar circulates in the community. The economic impact form is what we use as our scorecard. We've more than doubled in the last 9 years. It directly distributes to our bed tax. This helps support City services as well. Peg inquired about the 2.33 and she felt that multiplier seems somewhat low. Rick explained we like to keep it conservative.
- 2020 calendar has gone from 37 to 43 events this year. Anticipating over 3 million in direct spending.
- City Leagues – 2019 adult sports leagues had 260 teams and approx 2700 participants. Softball having 118 teams. Approx 40 part time staff – umpires, scorekeepers, etc. Basketball – 69 teams. Volleyball 67 teams and Kickball 6 teams.
- Maintenance upgrades for the Grace Sparkes Activity Center: new handicap restroom, exterior windows, Flagstone room kitchen flooring, gym is scheduled for painting in May 2020.
- Gym scheduled usage is over 3500 hours per year. Boot camp, basketball, volleyball...
- Special needs program (SNAP) serves over 150 adults with special needs – crafts, bingo, dances, partners with Special Olympics.
- Teen Task Force – new program developing for teens in the community – planning SNAP Carnival in GSAC to begin recruiting for the program.
- **Linda Nichols** suggested a simple map that shows where all the ball-parks are put on the back of the sports calendar. Joe felt that might be well utilized at the chamber for distribution.

○ **Golf course updates**

- **Randy Picard** stated we are off to a good start with the numbers up in January and continue to go up in Feb. Big tournament coming up called the Leprechaun Open with over 140 players and benefiting a great charity. First annual Chili Open – chili cook-off and golfing – February tournament with about 122 people signed up. Working on Antelope Hills Adventure Club, a walking group, yoga, cooking class and dancing. "Friday Night Scramble" – patio used with live music, 9 holes and starting first Friday in April.
- Improvements were made to the restrooms, bar area, fencing. Big thanks to Tim and the team.

Joe mentioned that revenue was up 58,000 this year over last year. Just short of 79,000 rounds of golf.

- **Golf course maintenance updates**
 - Joe praised the teamwork, the way things were handled during the change of leadership and the all around work that the staff has done.
 - **Albert Mendibles** – Thinning of oak trees, removing of dead trees, been working a lot with the aesthetics around the lake areas. New equipment: greens mower, computers. Felt things are going smoothly, staff fantastic.

- **Trails and natural parklands updates**
 - **Chris Hoskings** reiterated the work being done on the Greenways with the Over the Hill Gang, removing/thinning dead trees and working on the beautification process. Thinning out the open space with the Wildland Fire guys.
 - Working with developers to put trails into their new developments. Peg asked if developers pay and Chris expressed that it is a developer agreement where Chris designs the trail and work with the developer and Public Works on how it erodes, drainage and so on.
 - 150 miles of trail accomplished over the last 10 years.
 - Gravity Trail – Grant applied through IMBA for the planning and design. They awarded 10k. Looking in to locations for the trail. Hope to utilize a lot of local resources, volunteers.
 - Joe addressed the agreement we have with the Forest Service. We can work with our equipment and volunteers on Forest Service land and visa versa. The Gravity Trail will be built on forest service land.
 - Partnership with Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance.
 - About 2 million visits on trails each year.

- **Recreation supervisor updates**
 - **Larry Stephens** addressed on behalf of Adam that the crews are getting the ball fields ready with a lot of sod work, working on the batting cages, electrical, tree trimming, and prepping for the next season.
 - Lake levels: Watson 1.2 feet below spillway, Goldwater 1.3, Willow 3.6.
 - Great deal of filming going on out at the lakes: Tommy Bahama, Eddie Bauer.
 - Camping kicks-off April 2nd. A lot of work being done at the campgrounds, cutting dead and dangerous trees, ditches, drainage, cactus removal.
 - Goldwater – purchased con-ex containers to store maintenance items and make it cleaner looking. Toilets being modified to easy flush buttons.
 - Watson – removed hand blowers and replaced with towels. Added extra benches by Disc Golf.
 - Replaced old signage at lakes with new, easier to read.
 - **Linda Nichols** would like to see additional benches at the dog park and **Peg Travers** asked for some at the Pickleball courts. Memorial benches were suggested.
 - Community Service Program has been halted. Lack of participants. The Community Service staff will be working on special projects at the Golf Course, Park and Lakes and trails plus graffiti.
 - Miller Valley grass area will be updated with the grass being replaced with zero-scape low maintenance things. Josh Olson will be working on that project. Round rail fencing with vines, new trees, etc. This will eliminate the excessive water usage.

- **Fleet and facilities updates**

- **Joe Baynes** updated on behalf of Mike Carr. Just finished up the Aviation Hanger 800,000 worth of work. Parking garage cleaned up top to bottom with the team work of the various city departments: Solid Waste, Wastewater, P&R, Fleet and facilities. Will need to replace stairwell at a later date. \$450k cost for the stairwell.
- Human Resources remodel.
- All the vehicles for this year have gone to council and working on vehicle purchases for this year. 5 million worth of equipment was trimmed down to 3.6.

10. Next Meeting – TBD

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Linda Nichols motion to adjourn, Chairman Travers adjourned the meeting at 4:51p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Samara Rice, Staff Liaison



Peg Travers, Chairman

Date: Feb 20, 2020