

Monday, January 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

## MEETING MINUTES

Lake Havasu City Community/Aquatic Center  
100 Park Ave., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

[www.lhcaz.gov](http://www.lhcaz.gov)

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chairperson Welte called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Welte led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

Cheri Kowalski conducted a Roll Call of the Board members:

Regular Board Members Present: Chairperson Scott Welte, Vice-Chairperson Jason Keough, Rick Knotts, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Chuck Vaughn Lauren Vedder, Mark Zieff

Council Member Present: Michele Lin

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Mike Keane, Cheri Kowalski

### 4. CALL TO PUBLIC

- None

### 5. MINUTES

#### 5.1 Approval of December 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

- Member Zieff made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 17, 2018 as written, seconded by member Knotts and carried by the following vote:

**AYE: 8 – Welte, Keough, Knotts, Pascual, Smith, Vaughn, Vedder, and Zieff**

### 6. COMMUNICATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PARKS & RECREATION MANAGER REPORT

#### 6.1 Parks and Recreation Managers Report

Mike Keane provided updates to various items:

- Two hundred and six youth recreation basketball players will hit the hardwood this season compared to 135 last season.
- Youth summer camp locations will be finalized in February.

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- Starline After School Program will perform “The Rock in Tale of Snow White” Friday, February 8 at 4pm.
- Fishing field trips start in February with Nautilus After School Program.
- Next session of swim lessons begin on February 4.
- Kinderswim begins on February 11 and will run into May.
- Spring Lifeguard training will be held February 8 through February 10.
- San Bernardino Sheriff’s will be conducting their water safety training on February 11 and the BLM will conduct their water safety training for their staff on February 28.
- The pool will be open on President’s Day February 18 from 5:00am – 1:00pm for lap swim and exercise classes.
- Havasu Heart Fair February 2.
- Western Welcome Garage Sale February 8.
- Garth Brooks Tribute concert February 9.
- Parrot Club Sock Hop February 14.
- Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) BUNCO February 21.
- Mark Hahn Dinner Banquet February 23.
- Credence Clearwater Revival Tribute Concert February 26.
- Desert Hawks RC Club holding a Fun Fly February 2 & 3.
- RC Boat Races in the Bridgewater Channel February 7 through February 10.
- Winterfest on McCulloch Blvd. and Querio February 9 & 10.
- Western Pyrotechnic Association Winterblast February 13 through 17 at SARA Park.
- Lake Havasu City 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Water Festival Island Ballfield on February 20,
- ASA Opening Day at Rotary Ballfields February 23.
- Beers and Brats on the parcel on February 23.
- Annual Line Dance on the London Bridge February 24
- Havasu Deuces Street Party on McCulloch Blvd. February 28.
- Havasu Steelers members of the AZ Cactus football league submitted paperwork to utilize the Island Football Field.
- During the restroom project in Rotary Park there will be the need to close two of the bocce’ ball courts. Due to popularity, we are constructing two new courts adjacent to the courts we will be closing. When restroom project is finished we will have a total of 5 bocce’ ball courts.

## 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

### 7.1 Discussion: CIP Discussion

Parks and Recreation Manger Mike Keane updated the Board on the CIP. Only projects with identified funding sources will be on the CIP list for Council approval of next year’s budget. Projects with a one-time expenditure not ongoing costs will be given priority. All projects are currently being evaluated by the Engineering Department.

- *Board member Pascual asked what no reoccurring cost mean.*
- *Keane replied additional staff, or if we are adding to or increasing our budget.*
- *Board member Vaughn stated so you could not put any more soccer fields or anything like that because of the ongoing maintenance.*
- *Keane responded additional fields could increase the operation of the maintenance budget.*

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- *Board member Keough asked if he could give an example of would not.*
- *Keane replied the repaving of McCulloch Blvd. or wash stabilization, the HVAC system at the Aquatic Center.*
- **7.2 Discussion: City Council Planning Session**

Parks and Recreation Manager Keane recapped with the Board the Planning Session he attended last Thursday. Keane stated he felt it was a good planning session; it was very different from the previous two that he has attended. Council was much more engaged in the conversation; in the prior two, the staff did a lot more talking and we did not feel we got a direction from the Council because there was not a lot of time for them to talk. This year Council was giving the staff direction and feedback. Keynotes from the budget overview include our expenditures are outpacing our revenues. Estimated available resources end of FY2019 are \$23M and at end of FY2023 that is down to \$14.3M. The Irrigation and Drainage District (IDD) expires the end of FY 22/23 and that will reduce the City's revenue by approximately \$5.7M. The number of full-time positions decreased by approximately 10% over the last 10 years. Our operation and maintenance expenditures are completely flat over the last 10 years even though the cost of goods have increased. The amount of deferred capital and maintenance is increasing however; we want to maintain all of our current levels of service to the public. The City Council processes were discussed. Where that relates to this Board is we would like to mirror that in many ways to our Boards and Commissions the same way they run the Council meeting we would like to run our meetings. Items that were discussed is how the public would request an item on our agenda, how the Board members would request an item on the agenda, and changes to the call to public, the number of call to public and per day and reduction of time. Currently the public has 5 minutes to speak; there is conversation of having that go down to 3 minutes. During the planning session, a discussion of which Council members will be assigned to Committees and Boards. We are excited to announce we will keep Council Member Lin on our Board as our liaison. Future projects discussed and direction for the City Manager to pursue is the water/wastewater rate study, positional analysis study for all departments in the City, the ballfield on the island was discussed as far as upgrading and maintenance. To utilize better what we have verses building new. Next year we have \$2.75M approximately earmarked in the CIP for a new baseball field at SARA Park. When staff dug into those numbers it is going to cost \$4M to \$5M just to grade that area so we do not even have enough money to grade it nonetheless build it. Some of the conversation is to take that \$2.75M and spend it updating and rejuvenating some of the fields we already have. The baseball field on the island is almost unplayable; the grass in the outfield is weeds and thorny weeds at that. To spread out the money that we do have in the fields that we do have verses building new can go a long way. Another future project discussed was the future of our Consolidated Courts with the County and the City. His overall take is that budgets are very tight, additional revenue resources will need to be identified; the priority will be for projects that improve what we have and not increase our operation and maintenance budgets of projects in the near future.
- *Board member Zieff asked who is spear heading the suggestion about transferring the funds from the SARA Park project into maintenance projects. Who started that conversation?*
- *Keane responded our City Manager brought it up, he headed up the future project section and again they were ideas to see what would stick as direction from Council.*
- *Board member Zieff asked so will they take your suggestion along with our suggestion as to what you think as Parks and Recreation Manager should be added to the Parks and Recreation.*
- *Keane replied I would hope so.*
- *Board member Zieff asked Keane how do you feel about it.*

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- *Keane responded I am a big proponent of maintaining what we have and if we have facilities that are deteriorating that, we take care of them before we build new facilities.*
- *Board member Zieff stated he was thinking, looking at the traffic going to the field, the logistics for kids to go play. Recently he heard of a big rattlesnake infestation down there by the ballfields over by some buildings; he told the people he would go look at it. It is not this time of year. Its every year all the time, it is such an excessive problem that people are keeping their kids from that area.*
- *Keane asked which set of fields.*
- *Board member Zieff replied the Island Ballfields. He thinks it has something to do with the nasty smell you get when you drive down there. There is many reasons it might be best just to let go of those fields. Implement all of your new technology, because if you need to upgrade systems, water, technology, lighting, put it into a new one. Get rid of the old bed and put a new bed in there relocate it and that might be better suited for maintenance things like this extra space for City departments, operations because it is such a stinky hot area infested by rattlesnakes is what he is getting from people. He thought the SARA project is going good; you people have been voting on it year after year everything is going to SARA Park until now. He figures why go back when we are rolling forward.*
- *Board member Vaughn stated if you get rid of the food source the snakes will go away.*
- *Council member Lin stated what she took for the Board; they put up the five different things and the ballfield came up. She was shocked that she has never heard of this as a Council member or as sitting as part of this Parks and Recreation Board why they have never heard it yet. The answer that was given was they are going to go that direction now that they have come up with an idea, they will address it; discuss it with staff and bring it back to the Board, and then the Board will go back to staff. She feels the Board should be notified first before it goes into a retreat and in the paper.*
- *Chairperson Welte stated the SARA Park ballfields are rough to take because we were told for so long that, that was going to happen and it was a for sure thing. It is tough to take that we are not going to be able to do that; budget wise it is absolutely understandable and yes we should probably maintain what we have before we start spending money on new shiny things because we won't be able to keep those up if we start going downhill.*
- *Council member Lin said she had brought this up to the current City Manager and unfortunately, the prior City Manager had put many projects forward and gave the assumption that there was a lot of money and there was not that kind of money. That information was given to you on that basis and the new City Manager that came in said we would like to do that but there is not the funding for it, in his defense and in the Councils defense, we were not aware of it either. Another thing that was discussed and she brought up the fact we had the Pickleball Association come in and say that they had \$50k to donate towards the new courts. They did a priority list and one of the priorities is that ballfield so it is important that Parks and Recreation got one of the five things.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked what was the cost of putting in the Pickleball Courts.*
- *Keane responded roughly \$100k-\$150k for four courts.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked if there was any discussion on how to make up the \$5M by 2023.*
- *Keane replied no discussion at this point.*
- *A discussion took place regarding possibilities of different taxes.*
- *Board member Pascual had a couple of thoughts regarding City Council planning that continues and Parks and Recreation. As far as revenue, looking ahead, and forecasting she urges us as a Board to help the City Manager have a long-term vision of how Parks and Recreation can be a source of revenue. She thinks economic development needs to include Parks and Recreation a lot more. She does not believe we*

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are a part of PED right now that she is aware of. Not only resident usage and healthy happy lifestyles using our fields and everything else that Parks and Recreation provides but it is also an opportunity for revenue through tournament play and that can be so valuable. She is all for fixing up what we have and make it more useable. I hope that that will improve access to it; parking on the island is just as bad as Dick Samp. She would like to go on the record saying that the Fields Assessment seems to have been a very big waste of time, resources, and the Boards time and energy.

- Council member Lin stated she did address that to them. She stated this is a new Council, this is a new Mayor, and City Manager things that were done in the past were done in the past.
- Board member Pascual stated if we do get an opportunity to provide an evaluation or any kind of feedback for the company that conducted the assessment as well. It must have been so off base because she cannot think of one figure that has actually been accurate and reliable. Every project that was in there was so under budgeted when it came to reality that we haven't been able to implement any of them. The inefficiency and unreliability of that assessment I hope at some point is addressed so another City does not go through this.
- Keane replied he agrees, he believes a lot of time we do many studies and a lot of planning without already knowing the outcome that we do not have the financial resources to build what we need to.
- Chairperson Welte stated the cost of doing that to go nowhere with that is just wrong.
- Keane responded that is something he does not believe in. When he was first hired, he was charged to do a Parks and recreation Master Plan. Those are several of hundreds of thousands of dollars; if we do not have the money to change anything what is the sense of spending that money before we can really identify the funding sources first.
- Chairperson Welte commented we spent so much time addressing that and so long for it to go nowhere.
- Board member Pascual stated if the City Council is invested at all in seeing the Vision 20/20 plan through anymore she urges not just one project is seen as the resulting project of that plan; Parks and Recreation is part of that place development and economic and tourism development.
- Board member Smith stated when they first talked about this study they were going to pay all of these thousands of dollars to have this done; he volunteered to drive as many people over to Bullhead City and see what they did.
- Council member Lin stated not all of the Council members are involved with the PED. She understands your frustration with that, she has not been included in the 20/20 Vision and she is a Council member.
- Board member Vaughn asked if the rooms at the community center are booked up or do they sit empty.
- Keane responded yes they are rented quite often.
- Board member Vaughn asked if they have rates for those and has it been brought to the Council to raise any rates.
- Keane responded yes we do have separate rates and yes, they are adjusted almost yearly through Council. As far as producing additional revenue across the City there will be, many topics talked about and discussed in the future.
- Board member Zieff had a question regarding the allocation of the money that was already supposed to be set aside for the SARA Park project. He would like to have his facts straight before he goes and talks to Jess Knudson. He heard the Mayor talk for years and years how great, the money is. The Mayor said it is not the money that is the issue; it is the spending that is the issue. Why did everything change when Jess Knudson took over and started looking at the money different? He feels you guys should finish what you started. If the money is already allocated to SARA Park how can you take it away to do maintenance

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*stuff on a field that you should already have a maintenance budget. He is disappointed. He has been on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board a couple of years now and he is getting more disappointed.*

- *Council member Lin stated she does not believe there was ever the \$19M for the SARA Park project.*
- *Board member Zieff responded to the \$2.75M for the fields. He confirmed as long as they have not made a decision yet and this is just a discussion.*
- *Keane responded correct. The problem is he believes it is \$4M-\$5M just to grade the property.*
- *Board member Zieff stated let the money sit in the coffers like it is supposed to do for budgets and Cities. Then next year when we produce some revenue, we can throw that into the coffer for the SARA Park project and within a year or two, we will be able to get these stages done. He believes we need to remind Jess Knudson the passion we have for Parks and Recreation and this area, the passion Mayor, Mark Nexsen had for Parks and Recreation. I guess he is the guy that did all the Parks and Recreation and had the passion. He doesn't even mind getting back with him and having him go see Jess and say why are you going to build all this if you are not going to take care of it. What was your vision here where are you going with it now? These are things he wants to talk to these guys about.*
- *Chairperson Welte stated the problem comes we still have to have that money to maintain what we have so putting it away does not fix the problem.*
- *Board member Zieff stated we just built Cypress Park to alleviate this problem. One baseball field down on the island. If you live down on the island, we have a \$6M dollar park we just built now we are going to put \$6M in a park that, something is wrong with the numbers. My dad is an accountant; I know when numbers do not match up. You spend \$3M or \$4M maintaining or \$6M building fresh, well let's build fresh it is obviously is more cost effective, greener technology, new technology, you have an effluent water system going up there to feed all the water. What we are telling them and what they are doing are two different things.*
- *Chairperson Welte stated his question is so what is the solution before we build new with the fields we have now.*
- *Board member Zieff stated we have a maintenance budget for the fields we have now. He definitely feels that field has more issues now than what people are talking about with snakes, especially with sewage.*
- *Keane responded I think that is some of the conversation we are having in this meeting is that our operation maintenance budgets have not changed and everything does cost more. Without those funds, going up there is less and less in the coffers every year to be able to do.*
- *Board member Zieff gave an analogy of maintaining new cars verses old cars. He said this is 2020 the fields were built when? Let's wake up let's make sure that's what we want to do is maintain a broken down unit that might cost more in the long run to keep maintaining and fixing, than to put in a nice green system.*
- *There was a discussion amongst several members regarding the amount.*
- *Keane responded that is correct, \$2.75M is earmarked next year in the CIP. That is a conversation that is being discussed.*
- *Board member Keough asked is there a number we are looking for.*
- *Keane responded our expenditures estimated for FY19/20 are approximately \$53M in the general fund budget.*
- *Board member Keough wanted to make a statement; when he started on the Board a little over two years ago, he heard a lot of request for new stuff and the answer they got back from the City was we are having a tough time figuring out how to maintain what we have. He is grateful to hear that the City leadership is looking at the entire life cycle of the assets we have in place. He is looking forward to*

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*learning more about how the plans to boost the ability to maintain what we have gets there. He is frustrated, he cannot even prepare for these meetings. What good is he doing when he comes in and is sitting here and hearing for the very first time this \$20M project that was going to be \$4M or \$5M in phase one and a ballfield and some work is now just gone. I am grateful to be part of the learning process it is just frustrating to have to learn.*

- *Chairperson Welte stated that; the people that were going to be misplaced because of this project that are out there. They were scrambling not knowing if they were going to have a motocross track. I can see where they are frustrated too; they were put on notice.*
- *Council member Lin stated she understands your frustration because she also had that frustration. It has been brought to the current City Manager. Mike came on fairly new and was thrown into not knowing necessarily what kind of budget he had to work with. She went into and explanation on how the process used to work. She stated I sat on that Board and you told those Board members that are volunteers that this what they are doing and it kept being repeated by staff members that yes this is going to happen. She will bring it to their attention again.*
- *Board member Keough stated the frustration is there but I want to understand the process. Had we not had all of those presentations with the caveat that hey this thing is going to be great if we do it but you have to know the money folks do not even know this exists? He understands that there is times that this is none of our business and he is ok with this but it seems like there is a lot. I look at the agenda and think this is going to be good, I am looking forward to hearing about this and then we end up with a zinger.*
- *Council member Lin stated she did address this at the retreat. She asked where did this ballfield come from. Her understanding was that the ideas come from the community, from the Board and then go to the staff. The staff then takes it to the City Manager and then it is reviewed, and then goes back to the Board, then to Council. That is how I think it should work. I still think that is how it works. She addressed it that day and she said how do you go back to the Board and say guess what this is what you are getting when they were expecting a sports complex. She will as a Council member address again with the City Manager.*
- *Chairperson Welte stated we have to have faith in you that this is a new group and they are looking at this rationally now verses what was happening before. That projects going on in the future are going to be more obtainable when they are brought to us verses what they have been in the past.*
- *Council member Lin stated she does not think this project is to cover up SARA Park but I think they are giving you another option. They could take it out completely but they are giving you an alternative option.*
- *Board member Keough stated it got a high priority but we are talking about \$2.75M for a baseball field that got a high priority.*
- *A conversation took place that out of the five items that were put in front of the Council to say this is what we are going to concentrate on going forward. It was good to be recognized and to be on that list.*
- *Board member Vaughn stated it bothers him is that he remembers a year or so before we passed that referendum to raise what we could spend, he remembers a couple times Mark and them would always say we have the money in the bank. We just cannot spend it; so everyone voted to raise the thing but all of a sudden we can spend it but we do not have it.*
- *Council member Lin stated we do have it but it is going to pay for issues we had in the past. It is going to pay for things that they were not addressing. The money was there but it was not there to start new projects. It is to go back and maintain the other issues that we had. It was not addressed to the Council; it was not address to the CIP. When Greg Froslic came to you a few years ago I don't believe he knew the*

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*financial parts he was told to go do this, he was told to go tell the Board and that is exactly what he did. However, when it came to look at the books he is not the financial guy. He just did what he was told to do.*

- *Board member Vaughn stated I know you have only been here three years Mike. You said the City has lost ten percent of people over the last ten years.*
- *Keane responded full-time staff, yes.*
- *Board member Vaughn stated over the last ten years how many people have you lost in Parks and Recreation, in maintenance. Someone told him they used to volunteer or be part-time and they got rid of all the part-time people that go out and do maintenance at Rotary Park.*
- *Keane responded we have quite a few part-time staff.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked how many people have we lost. We used to do our own over seeding are they hacking that out to outside companies.*
- *Keane responded we still do over seeding in-house; we do some things as contracts. He cannot speak exactly for park maintenance how many full-time over the last ten years have been lost but we have lost one in our Aquatic/Recreation division that he controls currently.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked how many people do you have now that you control.*
- *Keane replied under the recreation side again taking parks maintenance out of it because I do not supervise that staff; I have 11 full-time staff.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked who does maintenance.*
- *Keane responded parks maintenance is run out of our Public Works division, Mark Clark is the manager.*

### **7.3 Discussion: Teen Break Update**

- *Parks and Recreation Manger Mike Keane reported planning is moving forward. We have decided through several meetings we will maintain the name Teen Break. The pubic is familiar with it. Staff is currently seeking out sponsorships and donations. Kalil one of our bigger sponsors they do all of the beverages is willing to donate that again. They also donate a monetary amount to purchase all of the t-shirts. Survey results came back; food and drinks desired were burgers, pizza, hot dogs, candy, ice cream, soda, and sports drinks. Some of the attractions that were highlighted were rides, music, and inflatables. Sports outranked videos. Tug of war and football is being planned down on the beach. He is not sure what it is but "Fortnite" came as a big word on the survey. It is a video game of some sort. We will see how we might be able to incorporate it in some way.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked what the age group is; and are you going to set-up and let the kids want go in and watch a movie.*
- *Keane responded 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. He said they have talked about all different kinds of ideas and that has been one of them if we show some movies here at the aquatic center.*
- *Board member Zieff asked if anyone said Karaoke on his or her surveys.*
- *Keane replied very few but yes there was a few. There are some music and DJ opportunities; we have talked about all kinds of ideas. Maybe some band competitions between bands the students have themselves.*
- *Council member Lin asked if we have Teen Break in the budget.*
- *Keane responded there is approximately \$15K in this year's budget. We are looking for donations.*
- *Board member Vaughn asked if there is a cost to the kids and how many do you expect.*

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- *Keane replied maximum of \$40 for each child. In 2017, there was approximately 800 that participated. We do many scholarships as well so youth that might not be able to afford that \$40 we do scholarship them so they would be able to participate.*
- *Board member Keough asked if you started marketing or canvassing the schools to let the kids know it is going to be back this year.*
- *Keane responded not fully, we are waiting on a letter from the Mayor to hit the business and once that comes out you will see it in the paper.*

### **7.3 Discussion: Unisource Donation**

- Parks and Recreation Manager Mike Keane wanted to bring to the Board's attention and thank Unisource for their donation. Last Tuesday night he brought an item to Council. Unisource came to us with a project looking to donate a solar powered shade structure at Mesquite Park. It is approximately 16 ft. x 21 ft. it has 18 individual solar panels on the roof. It is capable of producing 6030 watts, which is enough to power approximately 85% of the electricity utilized by the spray pad throughout the year at Mesquite Park. As part of the CIP project along with the restrooms, we did request a shade structure to be built so this falls right in line with that. We will replace some picnic tables under the shade structure as well to have for family gatherings and outings. When Unisource came to us with this concept, they are following a similar model of a project they had done in Kingman and built a shade structure right next to a splash pad. They were open minded to some other locations. We did provide them with a list of some of them so maybe in the future we could have some additional ones. Two other locations to note is SARA Park trailhead which that one gets more difficult because it would all have to go to battery storage, which then you are buying batteries. There is no true electrical line ran around the park to be able to go back into the grid. We also mentions Cypress Park for more shade.
- *Board member Vaughn asked if there is no power at the restrooms at SARA Park trailhead.*
- *Keane responded it is solar and it is just for the lift station.*
- *Keane stated it was a very nice donation and the estimated dollar figure for that is approximately \$30k. We like to thank Unisource for that donation.*
- *Board member Zieff asked if there is a dog walking area in that park.*
- *Keane replied there is no dogs allowed in the spray park area.*

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- CIP Update
- Teen Break Update

### **8. FUTURE MEETINGS (fourth Monday of each month)**

- February 25, 2019
- March 25, 2019

### **9. ADJOURN**

- Member Vaughn made a motion to adjourn at 7:12p.m., seconded by member Keough and carried by the following vote:

**AYE: 7 – Welte, Keough, Knotts, Smith, Vaughn, Vedder, and Zieff**

**Member Pascual absent at time of vote**