

Lake Havasu City
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
November 28, 2016
Lake Havasu City Police Facility Meeting Room
2360 McCulloch Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Summary Minutes

- Call to Order:** Chairwoman Ashley Pascual called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Roll Call:** Present: Jason Keough, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Rhonda Smolek, Mark Talley, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte
- Excused:** Garrett McNerney
- Minutes:** Approval of the minutes of meeting on October 24, 2016; Member Bart Wagner moved to approve as written; seconded by Robert Smith and unanimously carried by the Board.
- Approval of the minutes of meeting on November 15, 2016; Member Robert Smith moved to approve as written; seconded by Mark Talley and unanimously carried by the Board.

Call to Public:

N/A

Staff Report:

Staff Report

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane updated the Board; recreation reported Buses by the Bridge donated \$2,000 for the ASP scholarship fund and Western Welcome donated \$1,500 for the Winter Break Camp scholarship fund. Winter Break Camp is currently full, 100 participants per week registered. Seventeen participants are registered for the 7th and 8th grade basketball. Children's Celebration is scheduled for Sat. Dec. 10th at Rotary Park ballfields. Nonperishable food items and unwrapped toy donations are encouraged to all that attend. The Community Dinner is Dec. 16th at 5p.m. at the Aquatic Center. City Fees and charges will be brought to the City Council at their January 10th meeting; the public can make comments at this meeting or in writing through the City Clerk's Office.

The aquatic division reported we had just under 200 swimmers enjoy the Frozen Beach Party on Sat. at the aquatic center and on Sunday we had 28 dogs enjoy their own party in the pool. The MSD and aquatic staff are working on the pool closure currently. The pool was drained Sunday evening and will re-open Dec. 12th.

Our Marquee sign is operational again. At the last City Council meeting Garrett McNerny was appointed as our student member to this Board.

Chairwomen Ashley Pascual asked if Mr. Keane was going to update the Board on the field lighting. Keane replied the question has arisen of the lights for the school fields and that has not has been a decision to move forward in that project currently. A priority has been to get Daytona/Cypress moving as well as the fields at SARA Park.

Member Mark Talley stated so we have nothing to report for the fields update for the softball/baseball fields. Keane replied I have no field update the engineering documents are due back in the month of December.

Aquatic Center Assessment Update

Basketball backboards were installed at the community center these are permanent fixtures hanging from the ceiling and they are controlled by remote control. The slide and ozone systems are moving forward we are still anticipating a February date for the slide installation.

Trails Subcommittee Report – Rhonda Smolek

Member Smolek reported everything was pretty well laid out in the minutes from the work session. Members have met with BLM regarding the application for the AZ 100 Premier Trails application for SARA's Crack. Members have also contacted AZ Game and Fish asking information on water trails for possible grants and discussion on trail signage and priority projects. Another member is going to be working on getting information on using the old Hwy 95.

Public Hearing:

Recommendation or Direction for Student Working Against Tobacco's (SWAT) Proposal on Prohibiting Smoking in Parks

Recreation Services Manager Mike Keane stated SWAT made a presentation to this Board and it is coming back in front of you this evening to give a direction or a recommendation for Council exactly what you would like to see. Options that are being tossed around; are we making all of Rotary Park smoke free, or to make certain zones smoke free; thoughts on that would be to make the playground areas, Ramada's close to the Tinnell Memorial Skatepark and Ramada. Another recommendation could be to simply do nothing and keep the policies the way they are. We can also look at another park as the first pilot non-smoking park in the City. Those are just some ideas; we are looking for you to come back to me for a recommendation to Council as what you would like to see in the park.

Member Bart Wagner asked is anything coming from City staff as what they would like to see. Keane met with the liaison from SWAT and I think us coming together and talking we would like to first try the zones to be all playgrounds to

get the smoke away from children; Ramada B, C and 13 as well as the bleachers around the ballfields. With that the second part of the recommendation needs to be whether or not you would like to see these as nonsmoking zones as a City Ordinance or as a smoke free zone with signage and public education.

Member Scott Welte asked if that involves the skate park as well. Keane responded the skate park is already a smoke free zone. Welte asked if it would be clarified with more signage. Keane responded yes.

Member Wagner stated the skate park has been a smoke free zone but not by City Ordinance so weather the Police Department hasn't had a tool to enforce it. Obviously that problem exists there. Council Liaison Michelle Lin responded it is a rule on a sign there is not a separate sign showing No Smoking. Keane stated I think it will be enforceable and as a Police Officer does wander through he can say this is a no smoking zone. Member Wagner said if you make this a City Ordinance would you put this in the Parks and Recreation section. Keane responded yes it will be an actual City Ordinance. Member Talley asked when you say Ordinance for each individual area because we have other parks and when we tried to change the time in one park or just the skate park we had to encompass all of our parks. How is that going to work for just this park and just these areas? How many different Ordinances are we going to have? Keane stated I believe we write that Ordinance in a way that is flexible and we can have these zones as well as zones in different parks whether or not that would encompass the entire park at Jack Hardie. Talley stated that is something that the City is going to have to look at. Keane stated you could write the Ordinance to say there will be no smoking in the non-smoking zones.

Chairwomen Ashely Pascual asked if staff recommendation would be to recommend a City Ordinance. Keane responded staff recommendation would be to make it a rule with some more signage and public education. There would not be the enforcement through fines or community service. We would be asking the individuals to leave that area or extinguish there cigarette. Member Bart Wagner asked who would be enforcing that rule. I don't see staff taking that on to enforce that. Keane responded enforcement is a big key. I was told many of these non-smoking rules and regulations would be self-enforcing where the person standing next to the person smoking could simply say this is a non-smoking area could you please leave. That is certainly some of the concern with making it a City Ordinance is the enforcement. Member Wagner asked if anyone with the SWAT group has any answers to these questions because you have probably done your research with other cities. Keane responded Parker does have it as a City Ordinance and there is a \$50 fine or 5 hours of community service. Kingman has it as zones and as just a rule in there parks. Both say they work very well.

Member Jason Keough asked if there is a precedence already set for other City buildings, facilities owned by the City. Keane responded 40ft outside of the entrance and that is a State law. Member Talley asked if there are any

enforcement records indicating how well it is working. What is the proof that is working? Keane responded I do not have any proof of that it is just what I was told. Talley said it is going to be a voluntary enforcement type thing. I don't think we are going to be able to put an Ordinance saying in Rotary Park certain Ramada's it is going to be hard to enforce as far as an Ordinance. I think as a rule that is going to be a start. I don't think we can control it by Ordinance. As a rule a parent might say hey there is a sign can you go somewhere else.

Debra Levi with Mohave County spoke to the Board and stated there are other cities not just Parker and Kingman in the State of Arizona that have park policy's and also options. I believe a lot of it is in the wording. In terms of what SWAT wants; they would really like to see it as an Ordinance because several other places are and it is kind of the precedence.

Member Bart Wagner asked if there have records of how successful this has been in these other cities. Debra Levi said to be honest she has not spoken to anyone specifically from any other City. She stated she can if you would like her to follow up. From the Police Chief in Kingman explained he hasn't had any one cited. They basically just have signs with the City Ordinance. Wagner stated you will probably get a lot of the same questions from the Council as we are asking and it will be good to get that information.

Member Rhonda Smolek commented they go to Rotary Park all of the time and there are signs posted no dogs and we do not see dogs. She suggested maybe if there are signs that say no smoking in that area. She asked wouldn't the skate park be a City type building. More posted signs might help. Debra Levi responded any sign is going to help. She feels that the current skate park sign it is a giant list and when I look at I don't want to read it. If you just have a separate sign that states smoke free play area or something really simple then even a number to call if they want to quit smoking that type of thing would be beneficial. Levi stated again I know the SWAT kids would like to see it as an actual ordinance.

Member Keough stated regardless whether it is an Ordinance or just a rule and signs that it is probably going to be public enforcing this more so than law enforcement. Are there currently ash trays in Rotary by any of these areas and is that what you are proposing or that we have a designated area. It might be more comfortable for people to say hey there is a smoking section over there. Debra Levi stated it does empower the community to say hey there is a sign that it is a City law that you cannot smoke here. Education is something the SWAT kids can help out with.

Member Bart Wagner said he can see these other areas being self-regulated because there would be adult around; as far as the skate park he does not see that as being self-regulated. Levi stated it is already illegal for children under 18 to be smoking so if a police officer wanted to give that person a ticket they can already do so.

Council Liaison Michelle Lin asked Debra Levi wasn't this also related to some drug use in the park and this can kind of deter this. Levi responded there is some language you could include e-cigarettes and use a broad definition of smoking or tobacco use. Member Bob Smith stated you need to say no smoking do not say no tobacco products. Levi responded e-cigarettes are technically a tobacco product but I'm not sure. Levi stated she gave Keane the definitions that the Public Health Law sent her. Keane responded our intention would be to include the vapor and the e-cigarettes.

Chairwomen Pascual stated that SWAT has made several presentations to the Board and our roll at this point is to decide if we are going to make a recommendation. Member Bart Wagner had a suggestion that we do this in two votes; one being if we want to make the entire park or we want designated sections and two if we want it to be an Ordinance or a rule.

Chairwomen Pascual opened the discussion up to the public. Public Jeff Smolek stated he uses Rotary Park often and stated there are dog signs at each entrance of the park and they are big signs. He also stated there is not direct smoking in the skate park but it is the perimeter of the skate park and the Ramada located by the skate park. That is where the SWAT group picked up a lot of their cigarette butts and it is disgusting. Signs on those pillars or bench area would work well and he believes there is a little more power when there is an Ordinance instead of just a rule. Signage tells a lot and the size of the signs means a lot.

Member Bart Wagner made a motion to recommend that City Council adopt a smoke free zone encompassing defined areas at Rotary Park to include all playgrounds, Ramada 13, Ramada B, Ramada C, the skate park and bleachers by ballfields; seconded by member Scott Welte and unanimously carried by the Board.

A discussion took place regarding Ordinance verses rule.

Member Bob Smith made a motion to recommend that City Council adopt a City Ordinance creating smoke free zones as defined in Rotary Park; seconded by Scott Welte and unanimously carried by the Board.

Arizona 100 Premier Trails Application Process

Mary VanRooy updated the Board. She met with Sue Black with State Parks and she indicated they may change their name to State Parks and Trails because they feel it is important. They are requiring and asking us to do these premier trails. The deadline has changed several times but we found out there are deadlines to submit the trails so we can find out and make them better. She doesn't feel they have received 100 trails yet. We now have until January 2017 to submit our applications. Mike Keane, Recreation Manager provided a letter that the City would submit applications for the trails that are on City land. The

BLM has given their permission as well for trails that are on their land. VanRooy stated she has left a message with the Havasu Refuge and they have not responded yet. We would like to submit an application for a water trail from Mesquite Bay to Castlerock. With the 100 premier trails they would like them to be already existing trails. VanRooy spoke to Craig Rainey and he is working on a mountain bike trail. It's a matter of submitting the applications. Chip Shilosky and Jackie Leatherman with the CVB are working with Mary on submitting the two trails with Lake Havasu City. The London Bridge trail which is through the channel and Rotary Park and along with State Beach on the other side. The second one is the Island Trail. Questions were submitted to Mike Keane and staff to help describe more of the trails. Keane reported we are currently working on those questions. VanRooy wants to talk to Pete Knott's at the AZ State Park to discuss the connection of the State Parks and the trail by the condos in the channel. VanRooy has a request of the City that was discussed during the work session; a primitive trail access on State Lands. That is where everyone says we need to have someone from the State Lands and ask them if we can do a primitive trail which would be our Piccadilly Point project and along Body Beach to Contact Point. If we could do that it could help them with security issues. It would be a great continuation and eventually to the 280 project that has trails in the plans.

Member Jason Keough asked how many trails are you planning to submit. VanRooy responded the ones we talked about this evening. Hopefully other people will come up with some other ideas. She believes Lake Havasu City has so much to offer. Member Bart Wagner asked how long the applications are. VanRooy had a sample to show him. Chairwomen Pascual asked what is our role in this, I know we are supportive and feel this is great; how can we help. Member Bart Wagner volunteered to do the Island Trail. Staff member Cheri Kowalski stated she will forward the information to Member Wagner.

Member Mark Tally asked Mark Clark with Operations to come to the podium. He asked what the extent of our City sign capabilities are. Clark responded we make all of our own signs unless it is cheaper to buy them. Clark wanted to make sure it doesn't mean they are free they are typically \$50 - \$125 and that is not counting installation.

Mark Clark with Operations stated the parks department worked on a Trail Plan several years ago. That would be a starting point on figuring out where to go and this Board should prioritize some of those efforts because he has always told people growing up here Havasu has never had a problem with being all over the place and wanting to do things and having the money to do a lot of things but sometimes we get distracted onto something else. With trails I would focus on what you are trying to accomplish and he is happy to hear you are talking about existing trails because we have a lot of them that need to be enhanced and improved and connections that need to be made for connectivity. We need to take advantage of opportunities for example the county just did bike lanes on the county section of London Bridge Road that creates a bike or a pedestrian

way that you have something there that you can enhance with some other trails. Clark stated one of the connections that this group could possibly make would be with the Keep Havasu Beautiful committee; they have a lot of experience and the Master Gardener's they have a lot of experience with trees and identifying them. There is the nice tie in to the Havasu 280 project and the educational science center they want to do.

Member Bart Wagner asked the question from Rotary Park to the Contact Point HWY 95 right of way; is there any opportunity on the lake side to use some of that for a trail. Clark responded while doing landscape with ADOT they left some room.

Member Mark Talley wanted to address the Trails Committee and commented on the work session and stated he is glad to be able to work with that group and that they have been able to accomplish quite a bit over the time and we have a better direction on where you are going and hope you keep the momentum and know that we are behind you and thank you for all the hard work you do.

Mark Clark, Operations stated as part of the CIP process we did submit a budget request for sidewalk improvements, trails, and bicycle pedestrian trails. There are place holders to be part of the process we used \$50,000 as part of a starting point. The Council will have that opportunity to say is that a priority, is that a priority based on other expenditures. If this group is in support of any of those efforts this would probably be the time to make a communication to the Council. They have their retreat in January. March is when they have their CIP meeting; this would be the time to be suggesting.

Future Agenda Items:

Trail Project Priority Discussion
Update on Daytona/Cypress
Vice Chair appointment

Future Meetings:

December 19, 2016

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Member Mark Talley moved for adjournment 7:10p.m.; seconded by member Bob Smith and unanimously carried by the Board.