

Lake Havasu City
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

December 19, 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, Garrett Mc Nerney, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Rhonda Smolek, Mark Talley, Bart Wagner, Scott Welte

Selection of Vice Chair:

Member Mark Talley nominated Bart Wagner as Vice Chairman seconded by Scott Welte and unanimously carried by the board.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of meeting on November 28, 2016; Member Mark Talley moved to approve as written; seconded by Robert Smith 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 the Winter Camp has been moved to Smoketree Elementary to accommodate more children. We are able to accommodate up to 170; currently we have 161 registered which is up from 96 registered last year. Youth Basketball registration started today for Little Dribblers for ages 5-8, and grades 3rd through 6th. The Little Dribblers program filled this morning with 20 participants and we are looking at adding another session. The Children's Celebration was held on December 10th at Rotary Park and had a record number of children in attendance. The After School Program during the last 5 week session had the highest amount of registered children since 2008 at 528 children. Approximately 40 volunteers and recreation staff fed over 900+ people at the Community Dinner last Friday night.

The aquatic division reported the pool will be open during Christmas break for Open Swim Noon to 4pm December 2th thru 30th and January 3rd thru 6th. The slide will close January 9th in preparation for demolition and installation of the new slide which at this time is expected for a grand opening early to mid-March according to plans. Evening classes for Water Exercise will begin in January. The Stingrays Swim Team will host a meet on January 20th and 21st.

At the Community Center the AZ Collectibles and Firearms show will be held December 31st and January 1st. The Humane Society will be holding a

Vaccination Clinic on January 7th and the Blood Drive will be held January 10th thru 12th.

Aquatic Center Assessment Update

Staff is expecting the design concepts for the lobby entrance and parking lot modifications from Architekton by the end of the year. Chairwomen Pasqual asked if there are phases to the updates after that. Recreation Services Manager Mike Keane stated yes the phases are in a three year window.

Trails Subcommittee Report – Rhonda Smolek

Member Smolek reported a member from our Trails Committee has submitted an application to become a member with the AZ State Committee on Trails (ASCOT). If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a member as well there is a link on the City Website to ASCOT site. Trails Committee member John Geyer has applied and is going through the final process to become an AZ OHV Ambassador. The Trails group is currently looking for enthusiasts of all kinds. We need people interested in trails, cyclist, mountain bikers, equestrian, kayaking. We need people to help in establishing and increasing existing trails, future trails, and promoting trails in Lake Havasu City. Smolek reported there has been a problem with homeless frequenting the area around the Skate Park and Piccadilly Point. We realize this is an ongoing problem but we have seen some clean up in the area and we hope this effort continues. It is the goal of trails committee to discuss how to best prioritize and move forward with existing trails, and future projects in the City. Any volunteers we can get would be great; the committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Community Center at 4:00pm.

Public Hearing:

Capital Improvement Projects – Jeremy Abbott, Asst. City Engineer

Dick Samp Park Pickleball Courts

Assistant City Engineer Jeremy Abbott presented to the Board the status of three CIP projects. Elite Sports Builders is the contractor for the Pickleball Courts at Dick Samp Park. They are currently moving forward with the construction. They have surveyed and completed preliminary grading of the site. This week they are establishing the fence post poles and digging the foundations for those poles and will be establishing the frame work for the post tension slab. The following week they will start setting rebar and planning for a pour later in December. This project is moving forward. The anticipated completion date is January of 2017; there is a possibility of potential delay only due to concrete curing time.

Cypress Park

Abbot reported on the multiuse fields for Cypress Park. Currently staff is in the process of reviewing the 90% plans. Abbott showed the Board a site plan showing improved parking, potential for concession and restrooms, the walking paths and sidewalks. The locations and identifications of the soccer fields are representative examples of what could be used or shown in those areas. These

are multiuse fields. We did try to design around soccer being the major use out there. The lower field you see three smaller fields those could be striped in any matter dependent on use for that week, weekend or whatever the need may be. As we go through this process what you see is the ultimate build out. We have every amenity and every accessory on shown and included in this plan. Does it mean when it comes time to build it are we actually going to be able to do that. When I say that I'm referencing for example concessions or playground equipment when it comes down to refining the estimate and budget some of those items may have to be pulled out to build the project to meet the current budget that we have.

Chairwomen Pascual asked Abbott to explain what that means when you say you are reviewing a 90% plan and what results from your review; what is your next step. Abbott explained 90% is relative to the completeness of the plans. We are saying they are all most complete knowing that staff has comment and questions. There are going to be some changes involved before we finalize those plans. The next step is in moving on to bid documents; documents that staff will prepare for an award to a contractor to build. Chairwomen Pascual asked when will the public review be involved in that process for this project. Abbott stated typically with a Capital Improvement Project there isn't a necessary a public review period, however with the stakeholder's involvement in this project; once we get closer to really understanding the potential issues as far as cost and what items may have to be pulled from the project in order to move forward and meet the current restrictions. We will reach out to the stakeholder's we have been in contact with. Chairwomen Pascual asked who those stakeholders are. Abbott stated as of right now we have met with two representatives from the soccer league; he will continue those discussions with those representatives. Other than the PRAB there are currently no other stakeholders that have reached out or shown an interest.

Member Bart Wagner asked with the completion of this design what is the schedule for this project. Abbott responded currently we are on schedule and the original schedule is to complete design by the end of January. The bidding process will begin after that and it will take approximately three months. The goal is to have fields completed before the following fall season which is typically in October.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if the 90% plan includes the lighting. Abbott responded as part of the design yes we are evaluating lighting. Evaluation of lighting occurs in the parking lot and over the fields. Abbott explained cost comes in to play with this and we are going to have to make decisions do we light the parking lot, do we light the field. We are finalizing and working with our consultant and suppliers to get real hard good numbers that we can apply. We do not want to throw out high level budget numbers that may eliminate that potential moving forward if there are more realistic cost there; it is all being considered.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if purchase of that land is being drawn away from the budget that was set aside for this project. Abbott responded the property was in fact was awarded and will be purchased and approved by Council last week. The money to purchase the property is from the general fund but it does not have any direct impact on the previous approved budget for the improvements at Cypress Park.

Member Mark Talley asked if Mr. Abbott will be involved in this project. Abbott stated yes he is currently involved in this project. Talley stated he had the privilege of working with Mr. Abbott during the construction of the Tinnell Memorial Sports complex and he stated Jeremy is very knowledgeable and helpful and explains things very well.

Chairwomen Pascual wanted to make a comment that it would be very appreciated if the Board was involved a little bit more in the planning; I only say that because in the last presentation that is how the process was explained to us, that there would be time for the public to comment. As you mentioned there are a number stakeholders with interest and it might just be minor things but like instead of concession stand; light another field. Abbott stated he appreciates that, he understands the concern there and also it is not necessarily staffs will or desire to make that decision for the public. Member Bart Wagner stated I know a lot of that comes down to your schedule and how that happens; what part of this project will need to go to the City Council for approval. Abbott responded once we finalize the design and we go through the advertisement process when we bring forward and award contract to a contractor that will go to Council. Wagner said so as for the design that would not go to Council. Abbott stated as part of the Council retreat scheduled in early January these projects are also going to be presented to Council.

Sports Complex

Abbott shared an overview of the Sports Complex with the Board. This is a concept different from the one they were shown before. They are in the master planning stages of the overall sports complex. This is a huge complex and one of the main driving factors behind how this park and or complex is laid out is really do to the grading. There is approximately 140ft of elevation change from where the circle track is to the parking lot on the far west side. There are some terraces and we are trying to lay out the overall sports complex to take advantage of that grade change without increasing the cost of the park so much that we can't actually afford to build anything. This layout shows four multi-use baseball/softball fields, a larger high school level field. There are a total of eight multi-use soccer fields shown on this diagram. The numbers of fields that are shown here represent what was identified in the Field Needs Assessment as far as six additional multi-use fields, and where the baseball and softball fields are combined as a multi-use ballfield. This is a very high level conceptual plans; right now we are looking at taking advantage of the grades, we are trying to balance out the site and reduce the amount to fill, or may have to bring in or the amount of grading that we may have to do and also limit any potential need for Army

Corp of Engineers permits or having to deal with the feds. We have a lot of work before us; once we work out the details on this conceptual plan we will start applying dollar figures. We will have to make some decisions on what comes first, what we focus on. There may be amenities that just follow as time and budget allows. There is a substantial amount of money in the current CIP budget for parks improvement projects and for the sports complex. Fourteen million dollars is currently budgeted for this. We will come back to you again as we proceed through this process and we get more refined numbers and then start making some decisions.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if this year the design phase will be done and then the next fiscal year will begin construction. Abbott responded this year we are just looking at finalizing the concept. Going into next year we will look at starting that actual physical design and depending on timing we may be able to look at starting some of the construction towards the later part of next fiscal year.

Member Bob Smith stated looking at this concept you have here it looks like you have one baseball field and four multi-use field's softball/baseball is that correct. Abbott responded yes that is correct.

Member Bart Wagner asked what the process is working with the local leagues and how the multi-use fields would work as far as scheduling and such. Abbott responded there has been no discussion as far as scheduling. That is something that would take place with recreation. Wagner asked is it really going to fit the need of the leagues and you won't really know that until you have that discussion with those leagues. Wagner suggested looking at some other communities and see how they have used multi-use purpose fields and see how successful they have been. Abbott stated the purpose behind multi-use fields as it relates to the ballfields in this case out of the Field Needs Assessment that was identified as a potential solution and also saves on cost.

Holly Baldarama a representative with the soccer association; she is also a parent and a coach. She wanted to let the Board know she spoke to Nic Jones the Soccer League President and he stated the soccer league can build the concession stand part of it. They have been raising money for a few years to help build these fields and we need to know what we can do to help. Lighting is an issue and she has been speaking to a couple members of the Council members and one of the solutions was to put lighting on the school fields and we want you to know we would rather put lighting on this field. There are grants out there that we can apply for to help with the lighting situation and we want you to be aware of that. Baldarama stated she lives on the street and I know that I live by ASU too and those lights are usually off at night so I don't know of any complaints about lighting issues. She doesn't see anyone on her street having too many complaints about lighting issues. She knows everyone that lives on the street and she has two empty lots, three snowbirds, and two houses that are practically empty all of the time she doesn't even know who is there; she thinks they would be ok with those lights; plus they do go off at a reasonable hour. As

far as when we moved our soccer league we do start it earlier now. These fields would get a lot of use. We start the older kids in August so they have time to practice before the high school starts we get them in shape. We run our main rec league with younger groups starting in October and that will run through December. The rest of the year we run club ball now so basically our league runs soccer from August until June. Athletes do need some time off.

Member Mark Talley stated to Baldarama so you are in agreement you do need the lights on the entire fields. Baldarama stated yes. The problem we are having is we cannot offer practice times during school sessions and a lot of our younger kids it is getting dark so early we have to wait for parents to get off work. Parents don't get off work until 5pm or 5:30pm. We try with the younger kids to have practice at 4pm but a lot of us do not start practice until 5:30pm. We have ASU that will still let us use their field until they decide to turn them into parking lots; that has been threatened to us multiple times. Talley stated we realize the necessity and we are all here and we are all in agreement that all of the fields need to be lit. Baldarama responded yes that is what we would like and that is why we wanted to be here tonight to let you know we can come up with the money to build a concession stand and or the playground. If you need something please reach out to us and we have avenues we can go to supplement things.

Discussion on Trail Project Priorities

Recreation Services Manager reported everyone received in your packet a letter from the Trails Advisory Committee and their recommendations moving forward with the three projects they would like to recommend that the City does pursue with some funding. Projects would include completing the trail spur at Piccadilly Point, start the planning and design documents to construct a shoreline trail from Kings View condos to the State Parks Sunset Trail. Start the planning and meeting with all agencies to develop a shoreline trail from Rotary Park to the Water Safety Center. A dollar figure was recommended in the letter; however he stated he is really looking for weather or not these projects should be what is recommended forward or are there some other options you would like to see there as far as connectivity the next phases around washes similar to what Pima wash is.

Member Mark Talley asked if those projects are listed in priority. Keane didn't want to speak for the Trails Advisory Committee; he has already made some contacts with the Lake Havasu State Parks as far as what would their interest be with a continuation of that trail into their park because Lake Havasu State Parks is a fee park. You have to pay to get in there weather you are walking or riding your bike they do charge a fee. They are talking with administration in Phoenix as to see if there is a way to make that work so it could be connected. The Piccadilly Point project is moving along we are still looking to State Lands for that property. The last one is obviously a long term project that will involve many agencies.

Mark Talley stated it would amaze him that State Parks or the State would be opposed to people walking considering that our boat launch and ramps is one of the number one money makers that is would offset having someone walk through for a \$2 or \$3 dollar fee. Keane stated he cannot speak for State Parks.

Member Bart Wagner asked that the ADOT signage that was going to be placed in town is there something that can go along with that signage project that would help sign trails. Operations Manager, Mark Clark responded that the signage on the Hwy had to be very general and Rotary Park. We can do anything we want to on our City streets. Clark thinks what would be effective would be some kind of effort to have mini wayfinding signage on the walkways themselves. Example we just completed a cooperative effort with In-n-Out where they paid for a ramada and amenities across from their location; he stated we have a sidewalk connection to the multi-use path. If you were sitting at that ramada area you would have no idea you could walk up or down the multi-use path for 7 or 8 miles and you can walk down to the London Bridge Resort parking lot and be on the island or you can go to Pima wash and go up town. The Board maybe wants to think about some kind of signage that is concise to tie in all of those trails. The CVB does have a significant trail listing that gets you started.

Keane stated at the last trail committee meeting there was a lot of conversation regarding trail maps and how to overlay some of the different maps that we already have to identify those areas.

Chairwomen Pascual asked are we as a Board in favor of the priorities that they have identified. A discussion took place regarding the three projects listed and it was decided that the way they are written they would go in order of two, one and three. Another discussion took place regarding the Council Retreat. Member Mark Talley asked if this letter was put together by one member of the Board. Member Rhonda Smolek responded is was reviewed by everyone. Member Bart Wagner stated one of the top priorities should be the shoreline trail. Councilwomen Pascual asked if the Board was all in consensus with that priority. The Board was in consensus.

Future Agenda Items:

- Trail Project Priority Discussion
- Update on Cypress and Sports Complex
- Ask Jean Knight as a speaker
- Understanding on how process works with all different agencies
- Public input process before fields design is finished

Future Meetings:

January 23, 2017

Adjournment: There being no further business, Member Rhonda Smolek moved for adjournment 6:55p.m.; seconded by member Bob Smith and unanimously carried by the Board.