

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, April 23, 2018

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: Leo Biasiucci, Jason Keough, Rick Knotts, Ashley Pascual, Chuck Vaughn, Scott Welte, Mark Zieff

Excused: Robert Smith, Samantha Zilberman

Call to Public: None

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of meeting on March 26, 2018; Member Chuck Vaughn moved to approve as written; seconded by Jason Keough and unanimously carried by the Board.

Staff Report:

Staff Report

Aquatic Supervisor Swan Cooke recognized her aquatic staff Margie Snyder, Vince Barr, Sue Katsche, and Mary Francis Emerson. Cooke stated in February of this year Lake Havasu City was awarded two grants from the National Recreation and Parks Association in cooperation with the Center for Disease Control. Both of the programs that the grants were awarded for are evidence based programs for older adults that emphasize the importance of health and wellness. The grants that were received covered training and certification for two staff members for each of those programs. In addition, it covers marketing material as well as any of the supplies needed to conduct the programs. The first program is a walk with ease program which was developed and implemented by the American Arthritis Foundation. This program provided participants with a six-week program that has an educational component as well as stretching, wellness tips, warm-ups and cool-downs. We have conducted our first program that was completed at the end of March and was very successful. We will continue that program throughout the year. The second program that we were awarded is the Fit and Strong Program. This program was developed by the University of Illinois at Chicago the Center for Research and Aging. This program is an eight-week program with participants meeting three times a week. There is also an educational component, weight training, strength and toning, use of exercise mats and some resistant bands. All of these programs are available to us because of the grants. Cooke awarded the certifications to the staff members that work for the Community Services Department. Cooke awarded Vince Barr and Sue Katsche who both received certificates for the Walk for Ease program with the Arthritis Foundation. For our Fit and Strong Program, Cooke recognized Margie Snyder who is certified through the University of Illinois the Center for Research and Aging. Mary Francis Emerson is also a certified instructor and was unavailable to attend.

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane updated the Board; Recreation Division reported the Lions Club donated \$1,000 from the Balloon Festival towards the ASP Scholarships. Elks Club is sponsoring a Youth Carnival for the ASP's that will be held at the Aquatic Center Relics and Rods Hall on Thursday, April 26. The final performance for the "Wizard of Oz" will be held on Friday, April 27, starring the Smoketree ASP children.

The Aquatic Division reported an Elk's Free Community Swim will be held on Saturday, May 5 from 10am-2pm. Approximately 442 participants went through the Kinderswim program this year. Registration for all summer programs will begin on May 21. The pool will be closed for Memorial Day with summer hours beginning on May 29.

At the Community Center for the month of May there will be Kindergarten and Preschool graduations.

The MPO hosted another public meeting on April 18 to receive feedback on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Plan. There was approximately 30 people in attendance. The study is due from the consulting firm in June.

The first soccer tournament was held at Cypress Park on April 6-8 and another tournament on April 13-15 which also used parts of Rotary Park. There was a total of 28 teams and 386 players with 51 games played and 387 goals scored.

Public Hearing:

Update and Discussion: Rotary Park Wellsite

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane stated we had asked the Board for some suggestions of the area where the old wellsite was. The City Manager at the time Charlie Cassens was interested in doing something in that space. Three suggestions that he took back to Cassens was a basketball court, community garden, or a BMX pump track. At the time Cassens stated we will have to wait due to budget constraints. At this time the project is on hold because of the budget constraints.

Member Mark Zieff asked if it was too late to add an idea to that area. He stated at one of our previous meetings a gentleman came forward and wanted more Pickleball Courts he believes that would be a good area to consider. Keane responded if we put the basketball courts in there we can use that as a dual use.

Chairwoman Pascual stated it was brought to the Boards attention that New Horizons has already started a Community Garden. Keane responded that is his understanding as well.

Member Vaughn asked if there are no thoughts of putting this in your CIP budget. Is it just ideas right now. Keane responded no there is no formal plans of that right now. Vaughn asked if it would fit just one basketball court. Keane responded he was able to place three half courts in that space. Vaughn asked if

that is big enough for Pickleball Courts. Keane responded yes it should fit about two Pickleball Courts.

Chairwomen Pascual stated so this will be a discussion later on when there is a budget for it. Keane responded yes.

Discussion: Locker System at all Parks

Member Zieff stated the three years that he has lived here there is a concern for a lot of tourist and locals that go down to the beach that we do not have any lockers. Can we make a recommendation to City Council to see about putting something in the budget in a year or two from now to start looking at it? Zieff stated it is a friendly area and not a lot of things get stolen; he notices people putting their towels and purses on the beaches and personal items. You just don't want that one incident to happen. It would be a great concession well received.

Chairwoman Pascual asked are those kind of systems self-sustainable do you pay a fee use it. Keane responded he is going to use the term coin operated they are a little more modern now that accept credit cards. Keane stated that is one of the concerns is without having a staff member down there if somebody does lose their key and their car keys are in that locker then now how are they going to get into it. That is definitely a concern not having staff of site 24/7. If a locker did get broken into who technically is liable. Keane stated it does sound like a very positive thing to have them down there and people to be able to lock up their stuff there is some outlaying things that go with it.

Member Vaughn stated if they are worried about a key why don't they do a combination lock rather than a key or put your own lock on it. Vaughn asked if Mr. Zieff has looked into any of these lockers and kids will be kids and they seem to vandalize stuff. Have you looked in to lockers that are vandalism proof? Zieff replied he is going to the Las Vegas Airport tomorrow and he will take a look and some pictures of some locker systems. He stated the airports have all of the technology on them. He suggested we can have all issues facilitated through the Recreation Department or the Operations Department whoever is in charge of the park. Keane responded if you are going to leave the park at 7:00pm and we are already closed up, that can present some issues and struggles if the machine does malfunction. As where the airport and bus stations are open 24/7.

Member Zieff stated locker systems are a proven concept that work all over the world. He stated when you lock your stuff up it is at your own discretion. If something were to happen, you have to file a complaint and wait until the servicing hours are available to have someone come and help. Zieff believes it is 2018 and we need something down there. It's almost embarrassing being on the Board of Parks and Recreation and having people complain about basic concessions that you find in many parks across the country.

Member Vaughn stated a possibility is having a phone number of the officers on duty and they could have a master key and if someone is available they could

swing by and open the locker. They may have to wait a while before an officer is available but that is a possible suggestion.

Chairwomen Pascual was wondering if it is an opportunity for a private service that could be provided. Pascual asked if Mr. Knott's has had any experience in the State Parks system. Mr. Knott's stated no not with a locker system. He would suggest in all likelihood there is private contractors who furnish lockers so it would be a concession and there would not be any capital outlay to purchase the lockers, or maintain them. If we go the route of lockers he would suggest going with a private contractor. He does understand Mr. Keane's concern regarding the afterhours when there is no staff on duty. Possibly signage warning people if you lock something in afterhours you may need to wait until the next day to get it out.

Member Leo Biasiucci agrees with Mr. Knott's he feels if you have the responsibility of the City behind it; do you want our officers called out to the park for a key for a locker. If you go with a private group they pay for the whole thing, they pay for it and make a profit.

Member Zieff stated after being enlighten to your ideas Mr. Knott's he believes it makes the most sense. Maybe it is something we put in to the next talking point into a recommendation in June to maybe have the City Council look into hiring an outdoor vendor; summer is approaching fast.

Keane responded there are some new systems where each locker you pick the pin right there on a key pad. The system itself maintains all of that at a kiosk where you pay with your credit card and pick your code. Chairwoman Pascual asked what type of infrastructure is needed for that type of system do we currently only have that at London Bridge Beach. Keane replied we would need Wi-Fi connection for the credit cards. Pascual stated we have some things to think about and we can discuss at another meeting further.

Discussion and Recommendation: Non-Motorized Launch Ramp at London Bridge Beach

Keane reported we have had an additional 30 responses to the survey. We are up to a total of 97 responses. The attendance of how often do you visit London Bridge Beach has changed slightly. The daily attendance has increased from 25% to 32%, the two-three times a week has declined from 43% to 36%. There is still a good representation of people utilizing the park often. The favorite aspects of London Bridge Beach are that it is a dog friendly park, the scenery, walking paths and access to the water. What improvements do you feel could be made at London Bridge Beach; parking, Kayak launch, sidewalk completion and repair. In the last 30 responses people did mention the quality of sand. If the City were to consider adding a non-motorized launch at London Bridge Beach similar to Rotary Park would you be in support of this project even if it meant losing parking spaces. This number has shifted slightly, it was 85.1% in favor and it grew to 86.6%. The number of full-time residents increased from 59.7% to 66%. In our last conversation last month, it was asked to find out what parcels are City owned and what are leases from Arizona State Lands. Keane showed a slide to

the Board outlining the different boundaries. In doing some research the three parcels owned by Arizona State Lands they appear to be unleased portions is what the answers we received from them. Keane stated he met with our Engineering Department as requested. Keane showed a slide describing a portion of land. He stated the area they were discussing to reconfigure a parking lot in there doesn't work. In speaking with our Operations staff as well the thought of how to make this work they have a striped area already where the trucks come in to operate or maintain the rainy well. They can remove that gate and put in removable post and leave a wide enough space to carry a Kayak through but no one would be able to drive through. That would be the recommendation from staffs point of view.

Member Zieff stated that looks really attractive and asked if the striped area would turn into an unloading zone. He asked if we could do that with the other striped zone and make that an unloading zone as well. Keane responded yes.

Member Jason Keough made a motion to recommend and designate the two current maintenance accesses as loading and unloading zones, replace the current gate with removable bollards, and complete the sidewalk and make it more accessible for people that are unloading Kayaks; seconded by member Mark Zieff and unanimously carried by the Board.

Discussion and Direction: May Meeting Date Due to Holiday

Keane stated to the Board that the May meeting date falls on Memorial Day. A discussion took place regarding canceling that meeting or moving that meeting date. It was decided to cancel the May meeting date and resume on June 25.

Future Agenda Items:

Designated Star Gazing Night at Cypress Park

Direction the Board to be given from the Department, City Manager or City Council

Permanent Base Adjustment Proposition 409 Presentation

Future Meetings:

June 25, 2018

Adjournment: There being no further business, Member Chuck Vaughn moved for adjournment 6:45 p.m.; seconded by Member Jason Keough and unanimously carried by the Board.