

Lake Havasu City
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday, September 25, 2017
Lake Havasu City Police Facility Meeting Room
2360 McCulloch Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Summary Minutes

Call to Order: Chairwomen Ashley Pascual called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Leo Biasiucci, Jason Keough, Ashley Pascual, Robert Smith, Chuck Vaughn, Scott Welte, Mark Zieff,

Call to Public: Mary Van Rooy asked the Board for consideration to place on a future agenda a discussion on a horse staging area at the old Armory Site at SARA Park. The site is a big flat area where parking is available for horse trailers for user groups that enjoy riding down to the lake without having any motorcycles and shooting in that area.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of meeting on August 28, 2017; Member Chuck Vaughn moved to approve as written; seconded by Jason Keough and unanimously carried by the Board.

Staff Report:

Staff Report

Recreation Services Manager, Mike Keane updated the Board; Recreation Division reported 2017 Flag Football and Cheerleading are up 20% from 2016. Games will begin on Saturday, October 7 at Starline School fields. The After School Program ended the first session on September 8 with 536 children registered compared to 510 registered in 2016. The new Performing Arts and Dance enrichment began on Monday, September 11 at Nautilus Elementary. The After School Program from Nautilus will be the first to perform the Wizard of Oz on Friday, October 6 friends and family are welcome to attend. A free Basketball Clinic will be held on Saturday, September 30 at ASU. The Fall Fun Fair will be Saturday, October 14 at Rotary Park Ballfields. The London Bridge Days Youth Talent show registration will begin on October 2; the show will be under the London Bridge on October 26. The recreation department will have two floats in the London Bridge Days parade on October 26. Flag Football players, Cheerleaders and Volunteers will all be participating. Recreation will be assisting the Firefighters association with the Pumpkin Festival and Scarecrow Contest on October 28 and 29. Proceeds from that event will benefit the After School Program Scholarship fund.

The Aquatic Division reported the October Swim Lessons are filling up and have limited availability. The Lake Havasu High School Swim team will host a swim

meet on October 5. On October 20 a Moonlight Madness Glow Swim. Lifeguard recruitment will be opening this month.

Events going on at the Community Center are the City Employee appreciation breakfast on October 3, Elks Soccer Shootout October 5, Havasu Community Health Foundation Health Fair October 7, Aztec Pop Warner banquet October 8, Blood Drive October 10-12, Tree Dedication Ceremony October 14, Western Welcome BUNCO October 16, WNEA Event October 21, and AZ Collectibles and Firearms show October 28 & 29.

SARA Park Trailhead improvements in conjunction with National Public Lands Day will be held this Saturday, September 30 from 7am-9am and at 9am a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held for the trail head.

There was a request for crosswalk signs near the trailhead on Dub Campbell Parkway at SARA Park. They have been installed.

Trails Subcommittee Report – Mike Keane

Mike Keane reported the LHMPO held a public input meeting on September 19 regarding the bicycle and pedestrian implementation plan. It was very well attended. They are still seeking public input and that information is available online at lhmpo.org. Survey information is available. The subcommittee meeting for the trails committee was canceled in September.

Public Hearing:

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

Mike Keane stated Board member Zieff asked for this item to be on the agenda for discussion. Keane commented this item was brought up to the Parks and Recreation Board a couple of years ago and then officially taken to Council and the recommendation at the time was that this take place at Rotary Park and an Ordinance was modified to allow this to happen at Rotary Park verses London Bridge Beach do to the parking concerns.

Board member Zieff stated he has been here almost three years and he has a lot of conversations at the London Bridge Beach regarding this. He explained to the Board on an overview map of where the City border is for that park. He showed the Board where a suggested launch could be placed. He sees a lot of people struggling to launch their Kayaks back and forth from that parking lot. The main objective is to empower people with dogs; there is a lot of people with emotional dogs and people that come visit with dogs and there is no dogs allowed at Rotary Park. We do not have an area where we can launch non-motorized watercraft into a no-wake zone where boats are not speeding by. It is a great location because there are a lot of people trying to access that area. He would like to extend the parking lot closer almost mocking Rotary Park where you have a U-turn drive and drop off zone. It would be a 10 minute load and unload zone. It would also have access for Police emergency and ambulances. Zieff stated

even if it came to losing 4 or 5 parking spots for a loading and unloading zone that would be fine. Zieff stated Rotary Park does not allow trailer parking so to say that things have been looked at and discussed and reasoned out they just haven't been looked at that clearly enough to see exactly what needs haven't been met. He speaks to people that come down there that have trailers and stuff and they can't even park at Rotary with their trailer with their Kayak behind it.

Member Scott Welte commented the other access at Rotary was headed up by a Kayak user group themselves and that was the area they preferred. He believes they had limited trailer access for that property so they could bring them in and load and unload there. Welte stated the only benefit he can see for the London Bridge Beach area is because of the pet issue. He believes Rotary Park has been hashed out and made successful for them. Zieff stated in response to that once again when Rotary Park is crowded it is crowded and the people park all of their Kayaks in the loading zone and they pull their stands out and they sit there for 3 or 4 hours and they block the whole entry way. There is no real access when it is busy between 5am in the morning to 8am in the morning. It quiets down after those hours. There are a lot of people that Kayak with pets and I think that is an angle we want to look at. The other thing is why do we keep sending people to one area when this is such an open space for people to access. Zieff believes it would help spread that congestion out.

Board member Scott Welte stated the other group requested Rotary Park that was the area they preferred. Zieff commented we are talking about new Kayak users this year a new generation, Canadians, and Snowbirds. Zieff stated he was going to talk to the City Attorney and see if he can file for a petition. He wants to get a petition from the City residents and the Non-City residents for a non-motorized watercraft launch. He wants to go get signatures from people he personally talks to. Zieff stated after they agreed to build the one at Rotary Park there are some issues without being able to pull a trailer and park it and have your dog; those are two basic issues we could cover. Rotary Park is really strict with their rules and flexibility; nothing is going to change. Zieff stated he would like to utilize this ugly space; it is dead space, nobody really uses it and he is probably there every day during the summer. Zieff really wants something to happen that allows these people to use their dogs. We have military people with dogs, emotional distress people with dogs. You do not see any of them at Rotary Park because there are not any dogs allowed there. It is a missing link. Mesquite Bay is one thing, Site Six is another thing, and it leads you right into a wake zone where it is really choppy. It is such a great area right there; especially what that Beach Shack company did there with drawing traffic. It would help push him over into his zone instead of him taking up the City property. We can actually utilize that park and beautify it for the rest of the City Park. Zieff stated it is the perfect area to draw the loop down. If the police want to access it they can pull their boat in and out and have emergency access. The Marina is private property and the last time there was an emergency the cops couldn't even get out of the water.

Board member Leo Biasiucci stated his experience at London Bridge Beach is the parking situation is very tight. His only concern is if we did open that up your now bringing in new traffic with the loading and unloading and they will need to park somewhere. Could we handle that overflow. Recreation Manager, Mike Keane stated the days he has been down there every spot has been taken not only by the park but also in the upper parking in the overflow lot. Keane stated he is not sure where they would end up parking some of these trailers. Member Welte stated that is his concern as well; now we have trailers and cars and no place to park. Zieff stated it is only busy on weekends and in the summer; the winter is dead he can get a camera out there to show you how busy it is if he has to. Zieff stated on the inside track of the pavement we have trailer parking all along the inside. The upper part of the road it is all double spaces and already zoned for trailers. If we took 4 parking spots and changed them to no parking and unloading only that would solve the problem if we didn't do anything else. It enables a person when the parking lot is full to access that point. There has been many times he wants to bring his Paddle Board and Kayaks down; he can't access Rotary and there is no place to pull up and stop and unload his stuff. After two years it is getting aggravating and he would like to see something done if it doesn't cost a lot of money. We are putting signs ups and doing all these other projects around town. Zieff stated again he can get a petition if you guys think you want to see voters or signatures if there is a legal way to do that he is willing to do that. Member Welte stated even with the project they did at Rotary Park cost was pretty expensive with the small area they did there; cost may be a hurdle. Welte believes it is a good idea but when you get into the cost and the parking where are we going to end up with that.

Board member Jason Keough stated he knows the intent of this discussion is to lead to whether or not the Board will make a recommendation regarding this subject. It was mentioned we worked this out a couple of years ago where we already had this discussion which lead us to change in the Ordinance at Rotary Park. Keough asked if they can take a look at minutes from past meetings where those discussions took place so the Board can be a little more informed and avoid going through the same thing twice. Keane responded he will send those out this week.

Board member Biasiucci stated another option for a first step would be to see if the demand is even there. He personally is not a kayaker and doesn't know what the demand is and he personally has never heard of there being an issue however he is not in that community. We need to see if this is what the community needs and wants. Zieff stated he would love to do that if he can get permission from the Board and the City Attorney can give him permission to get a petition filled out. Keane stated he doesn't know if the petition is the right way but more of a public comment and other beach users is this something they would like to see at that beach. We need to get a full spectrum of community not necessarily just from Kayakers and Paddle Board users. Zieff stated obviously who ever stops down there with a Kayak just to go ahead and ask them if they would like to see a non-motorized launch here yes or no. Zieff asked would that

be too simple. Member Welte stated you are going to know what the answer is going to be if you only ask people with Kayaks. Zieff stated ok so he will ask everyone who shows up there and how it would affect the drainage from the heavy rains by adding the road. There are all kinds of things he has looked at in trying to make this happen. Zieff stated he has no place to load his stuff and his dogs in a no wake zone in 2017. This triangle is a really dog friendly area and he can't do without his dog and he can't leave him at home and go paddling. There are so many people in a situation like that. Zieff commented the Today's News Herald reporter come by the Beach Shack the other day and he did an interview with him on this paddle board experience and how it is growing. He is going to put something in the paper this week and there is a paddle fest coming up soon. He would like to do a petition and work on that for 3 or 4 months and talk to the people that come here. He just wants to see something done that is simple and useful and fast.

Chairwomen Pascual asked if he is able to find out if there are other private non-motorized watercraft launch ramps in the bay. Zieff stated it all leads back to private enterprise or State Lease land areas. Zieff commented the State is doing more for paddle boarders than Parks and Recreation is doing is what it comes down to. The State has the launch ramps, Mesquite North, South, Bill Williams, Site Six, That Beach, and Body Beach and he can go on and on. We have nothing except Rotary Park for access for non-motorized and the island has everything but that. Zieff stated it would be neat to have a spot he can put his Canoes in and move my car. Keane corrected member Zieff and stated Site Six is a City facility. Zieff stated and once again that leads right to a wake zone so as soon as you get in the water it is choppy and is a not a safe experience for older people or kids. The whole issue is it is a no wake zone here; it is a swimming area, a mellow area and an area that allows pets.

Chairwomen Pascual agrees she stated it seems like a great idea. She believes there is some consensus from the Board if there is interest there should be some discussion. Member Welte asked when the swimming area is set-up how far does that come into the area Mr. Zieff is talking about. Zieff stated the beach rentals are on private property. Welte stated no the swimming area for London Bridge Beach. Mark Clark with MSD responded the swim buoys go into the area the Beach Shack rental is operating out of. Clark stated the other question where they are speaking of there is not a lot of room there and that could be an issue. When you pencil out a 20ft. drive or turn around in there it is going to eat up a lot of space because people are going to pull trailers in there and you are not going to have a lot of room. Clark would suggest you are on the right track and sketch out some areas and include the swim area discussion and what you want to have there. The interesting discussion regarding dogs is dogs in London Bridge Beach are supposed to be on a leash even if it is in the dog park so it is not like you can allow your dogs to just run around. Member Zieff wanted to correct Mr. Clark and he stated the dog catcher told him dogs in the channel in the water and within 10ft of the water do not have to be on a leash and it is not enforceable. Zieff stated again this is just dead ugly space there is no grass, no

sand its nothing. It would be fine for a parking lot with some trailers down there. People can even bring their horses down there if they want to and get them in the water.

Chairwomen Pascual stated there is some interest peaked we are just needing more information. Zieff responded I would be interested in seeing who even likes that idea he said it could be worked out inexpensively next to nothing. Member Welte stated anything we do to gain access or help the public gain access to the water is great he just knows what they went through for the last one and inexpensive was not how it worked out. It ended up being a long process. Zieff responded as one more reminder if we did need to simplify it for an easy solution if we just took 4 of the regular parking spots and made them unloading only so there would always be 4 spaces open for people to unload their equipment right next to that sidewalk there is a handicap spot and 4 regular spaces and another handicap space. Zieff stated that might be a simple way to do that and just change the signs that would help; it would give him a spot to park, unload, tie his dogs to his Kayaks and then go find a parking spot. That might be the easiest way to get something done temporarily.

Member Biasiucci asked if the sand area where the sidewalk goes would that be an option to just make that area a parking lot and within that area make 4 spaces for unloading only. Maybe not do the whole launch ramp idea but add another parking lot area. Keane responded definitely an interesting idea.

Chairwomen Pascual confirmed with the Board the next steps for this item. Manager Keane will pass along minutes from past meetings to review. Member Zieff will get some survey information to gage interest from both sides. After everything is gathered we can see what the possibility of adding that as a parking lot with loading and unloading zone. She would also like us to look at if we will be infringing on any other private operations that have other launch ramps like that available. Just so we have a full understanding and we can make an informed recommendation.

Board Member Chuck Vaughn asked if this location was at the end of Rotary Park by the Heat Hotel and you keep going down to the far end. Chairwomen Pascual stated yes at London Bridge Beach. Vaughn stated so the only discussion about Rotary Park is they have a launch area there and that is what they preferred but people with dogs cannot launch there because they can't bring their dogs. Pascual responded yes. Vaughn commented the survey would be the first step to the people at Rotary Park and ask them would you like to have a launch ramp at Rotary Park where you could bring your dog, would you bring your dog. He suggested surveying on both sides on how many people would use it and bring their dog. Vaughn asked if people launch mostly with a trailer because his neighbor has Kayaks but he brings his over the cab of his truck. Zieff responded in his opinion no it is just about a half of dozen people he has spoken to at London Bridge Beach because there is no place to park a trailer at Rotary Park is what they have told him. Vaughn asked do people specifically come to London

Bridge Beach because they can bring a dog over there. Zieff responded yes and because they can bring their trailer. Vaughn stated I know it says no trailers at Rotary Park but from what he understands is that early in the morning people bring their trailers anyways and launch and leave their trailer at Rotary as long as no one bothers them. Keane responded and corrected the previous statement; the Ordinance was changed and does allow trailers for non-motorized watercraft in Rotary Park that was part of this whole discussion a few years ago. Vaughn confirmed so trailers are allowed at Rotary Park now for non-motorized watercraft. So basically they are trying to do the same thing at London Bridge Beach so people can bring their dogs. Vaughn asked if when Contact Point goes in are they going to have a non-motorized launch ramp there. Keane responded he is not sure on that.

Discussion and Possible Recommendation: New Recreation Amenity at Abandon Wellsite in Rotary Park

Mike Keane explained this item was introduced at the last meeting. Keane asked the Board if anyone has come up with any additional ideas. He stated from talking to some of the public some ideas that were brought up were; three ½ court basketball courts, bathrooms as a great location which he agrees with however the cost is too expensive.

Board Member Scott Welte stated the BMX group would like to see a pump track there which is a track that can be used for bicycles, skateboards and things like that. The basic idea on that kind of track is you do not peddle on it you use the obstacles to pump through it and operate the bicycle or skateboard. The City of Elsinore has had great success with their pump track that was put in a public park that took up very little space. Member Zieff believes that would be a great idea especially if the land is angled the way it is. Anything new and trendy so we are not living in prehistoric times. He suggested Frisbee Golf, Horseshoes, bleachers or an obstacle course like American Ninja Warrior.

Board Member Biasiucci mentioned a Community Garden in that area where the youth as well as the seniors could use. You could even have sponsors sponsor each box. It is something that could be used by everyone in the City.

Board Member Vaughn asked what the dimensions were. Keane responded with the measurements. Chairwomen Pascual asked if these recommendations you are considering. Keane responded the City Manager asked for this Board to come up with some suggestions or ideas for this area. Member Keough stated he loves the idea of the Pump Track and he knows they have been trying for a long time out at the SARA Park BMX to put one in; how feasible would it be to put one in this area. Keane stated one of the issues they are having out there is insurance so we would have to look at the City's insurance and see if that would be something they would be willing to accept. Member Scott Welte asked for the Board to do a search of the City of Lake Elsinore Pump Track it is small and has a few rollers in it and turns. This would be something in the middle of town and accessible for children. Member Zieff stated it would be close to the Recreation

Center, it would be great for you to bike from the skate park right over to the pump track and fill the void.

Chairwomen Pascual stated she likes both of these ideas. She thinks the Community Garden is a great way to connect generations; there are not many places like that in our City. She also feels the pump track idea goes along with the skate park. Pascual mentioned she knows we have a playground that is accessible to children with other abilities but we do not have an all abilities playground in the City; that might be another idea for that area.

Chairwomen Pascual opened up this item to the public. Mary Van Rooy addressed the Board and let them know that New Horizons is putting in a very large Community Garden on Moyo Dr.

Capital Improvement Projects Update:

a. Cypress Park

Mike Keane reported the mass grading at Cypress has been completed. The pad has been poured for the restroom facility. The next step will be adding the utilities to the park as well as the restroom facility and the masonry of the building and the retaining wall. They are planning on sodding around January. Chairwomen Pascual asked if the field would be usable then in January. Keane responded no we would be looking at March or April. Member Vaughn asked if the field was going to be Sod or Hydro-seed. Keane responded they have gone back and forth but believes they are going with Sod. They are looking for 30-60 days grow time before anyone is on the field so the roots do take hold. Member Zieff asked if he can see the plan or design. He had a question on the dog walking area. Is there going to be a place you can let your dog's off in a fenced area. Keane responded there is not currently a designed area to let your dog's off leash. Currently everything would be on leash.

b. SARA Park Sports Complex

Mike Keane reported they had a kick-off meeting on August 28 with the engineering firm Shephard Wesnitzer Inc. The meeting was a meet and greet and showed an overview of the plan for the Sports Complex. After the engineering documents are drawn we will bring to the Board to look at and make suggestions. Chairwomen Pascual asked what the timeline they presented for those initial drawings is. Keane responded he believe the date was in February. Member Zieff asked if this was a new project as well as updates to the existing fields. Keane responded it will be a combination of both. Member Zieff also asked if bleachers will be set-up there or not eventually someday. Keane replied there are some small bleachers. If we do the championship field then there would be some taller bleachers installed.

Future Agenda Items:

Staging Area at the Old Armory Site
London Bridge Beach Non-motorized Watercraft Launch
Rotary Park and London Bridge Beach Handicap access from boat 15minute parking area
Update on changes in Recreation Department regarding camps
Update on Piccadilly Point – Overview of project

Future Meetings:

October 23, 2017 at the PD Meeting Room

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Member Chuck Vaughn moved for adjournment 7:15 p.m.; seconded by Member Leo Biasiucci and unanimously carried by the Board.