

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Meeting of November 17, 2015

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**LOCATION:** Flood Control District Operations Building, 2801 West Durango Street, Phoenix, AZ 85338

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anne Lynch, Jack Stapley, Rod Jarvis, Dr. Robert Branch, Denise Merdon, Carl Yoshioka and Devin Del Palacio (via teleconference).

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, and Betsy Pregulman, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney

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The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the November 17, 2015, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Rod Jarvis, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- The regular meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEM #2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.**

**ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2015, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Rod Jarvis, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM**

- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Stapley seconded to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting as presented. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion was approved.

**ITEM #4 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Director Cardin highlighted the complete redesign of Parks’ website by American Eagle LLC. The new site will look and feel much more customer friendly. ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) will be constructing an exit off the 303 Freeway onto Olive Avenue; providing a direct link to the White Tank Regional Park. The Use Management Agreement with Estrella Youth Sports (EYS) has been finalized and will be signed by EYS; the agreement has been placed on the December 9, 2015, Board of Supervisor’s agenda for approval. Every month, the park supervisor and interpretive ranger at each park work with community members and concessionaires and continues to provide a large number of events for our visitors. The 100-Mile in a 100 Days Challenge has kicked off.

**ITEM #5 – DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER HIGHLIGHTS – Rich Glinski, Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM**

- Mr. Glinski informed the Commission that the Desert Outdoor Center (DOC) opened in 1998. The DOC is a venue that holds retreats, weddings, educational programs, business meetings, church retreats, and a Boy Scout Aquatics and Nature Camp. Approximately 20,000 students attend Outdoor Education camps each year. Increased competition is occurring as several other agencies begin to

provide outdoor educational programming. Attendance has declined over the past several years, partially as a result of cancellations due to school budget cuts. The Parks' Revenue Philosophy previously approved by the Commission continues to subsidize the DOC each year as highly beneficial community activity.

**ITEM #6 – FY2017 PARKS BUDGET REQUEST – Aimee Upton, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM**

- Ms. Upton informed the Commissioners that the department is currently preparing the FY17 budget. A County-wide initiative was approved to migrate all departments to a Zero Based Budget (ZBB) during a five year roll out. Currently, in the third year, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) selected 10 departments this year, including Parks. A ZBB has no budget targets and begins at zero dollars and builds the budget to cover all department needs. The ZBB submission is due January 8<sup>th</sup> which is approximately a month earlier than past years. Parks will prepare a base budget which includes expenditure amounts fully supported by Park revenues and prior year General Fund. The ZBB submission may include requests over and above the base budget. Staff will group "like items" to demonstrate a system wide need versus individual park needs. Other groupings include establishing a major maintenance life-cycle plan, capital/non-capital equipment, computer/IT infrastructure, general supply/operating, vehicles, capital improvement projects and Vulture/Hassayampa.
- Commissioner Branch inquired the amount needed for the Vulture/Hassayampa group. Ms. Upton informed the commission that the final amount has not been set, but a rough estimate could be somewhere between \$750,000 to \$1M. Director Cardin stated that this is only for the Hassayampa River Preserve side and does not include the campground or day-use area at Vulture Mountain.

**ITEM #7 – PRICKLY PEDAL RACE – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM**

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that approximately 70% of the 310-320 mile Maricopa Trail connecting all the parks has been completed. Not enough use on completed trails leads to quick deterioration. To highlight the Maricopa Trail and increase use, a major special event has been established. One of the original members of the Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation (MT+PF), Karrin Kunasek Taylor, Executive Vice President of DMB Associates, envisioned a multi-day staged race on the Maricopa Trail. The inaugural Prickly Pedal Race is set for January 23, 2016. The approximate 50-mile endurance race will begin in Lake Pleasant Regional Park and run on the Maricopa Trail through Cave Creek Regional Park and Spur Cross Conservation Area, finishing in the Town of Cave Creek. The host of this event is the MT+PF and Maricopa County Parks is a partner. Estimates of 300 riders are expected to participate in 2016 with an eventual goal of thousands in future years. Various levels of sponsorships were established with over \$50,000 cash and \$25,000 in-kind donations pledged to date; the estimated budget is \$50,000. The ultimate goal is to make this an annual event as a fund raiser for MT+PF to maintain the Maricopa Trail after completion, promote the trail and generate economic development for communities around the valley as the race is expanded.

**ITEM #8 – ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE – Leigh Johnson, Parks Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Ms. Johnson provided a brief overview of the Estrella Park master plan update process which has included approximately 14 meetings with internal staff, five partners/stakeholders meetings, three youth outreach events, four presentations to the Parks and Recreation Commission Board, one public meeting, and various press releases through print, social media and newsletters. Major projects also considered include the Estrella Youth Sports (EYS) area, the City of Goodyear's Brine Wetland project, and the El Rio Corridor. A list of draft recommendations and alternatives were presented to the Commission which included two options: Option A recommends minimal amendments to the existing 1988 Master Plan and Option B recommends distinctive improvements and eliminates the remainder of the 1988 Master Plan recommendations. Next steps include another public meeting in late January/early February 2016, request Parks Commission recommendation for approval in March 2016 and request Board of Supervisor approval of the revised plan in March/April 2016.

- Chairman Jarvis asked if the current agreement with EYS will be in conflict with Option A. Ms. Johnson informed the Commission that the 1988 Master Plan included a very active sports complex. Director Cardin stated that EYS is fully aware of the master plan update process and have participated in the stakeholder/public meetings. Their contract lists their development be completed in phases; pending the final master plan update, they may not develop beyond the existing ball field area improvements prior to completion of the plan. A recent meeting with the Friends of Estrella Park was held and discussed the various options including long-term sustainability of large turf areas.

**ITEM #9 – ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK/CITY OF GOODYEAR WETLANDS – TEMPORARY LICENSE AGREEMENT – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM***

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that the City of Goodyear's Bullard Water Treatment Plant operates a reverse osmosis (RO) system which produces a brine water concentrate byproduct. The City of Goodyear and the Bureau of Reclamation have been in collaborations since 2009 to manage the RO brine concentrate. Locations within Estrella Regional Park have been identified for possible expansion of a pilot project using the brine water in a managed vertical flow wetlands blending pond area. Potential benefits include habitat for additional wildlife, landscape improvements, small lease revenues, interpretative and environmental educational components and increased recreational activities while returning water back into the Gila River El Rio Project and replenishing the aquifer.
- The Temporary License Agreement allows the City of Goodyear to conduct non-ground disturbing site investigations and data collection within Estrella Regional Park including the Tres Rios Golf Course areas. The agreement will expire in October 2017.
- Commissioner Lynch, seconded by Commissioner Del Palacio, recommended approval of the Temporary License Agreement to the Board of Supervisor. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was passed.

**ITEM #10 – MARICOPA COUNTY PARK RULE REVISIONS – Betsy Pregulman, Deputy County Attorney, Maricopa County Attorney's Office – *INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM***

- Ms. Pregulman informed the Commission that the current Park Rules were adopted by the Board of Supervisors in August 2003. It was recently brought to the County's attention that Park Rule R-106 was in violation with A.R.S. §13-3108 regarding possession and discharge of firearms. Proposed verbiage revisions were presented to the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Branch requested clarification of the proposed verbiage. Discussion was held to clarify the rule addresses discharging firearms and not possession of firearms.
- Chairman Jarvis called for a motion to approve the proposed revisions. None received. Chairman Jarvis called for a motion to table the agenda item and continue at the next meeting. Commissioner Branch motioned, seconded by Commissioner Stapley, to table the agenda item to the next meeting with proposed revisions to the title of the rule changed. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

**ITEM #11 – APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO NOMINATE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2016 - Rod Jarvis, Chairman, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *ACTION ITEM***

- Chairman Jarvis asked for clarification to select the nominating committee per the bylaws. Article IV-Officers and Duties, Section 3.C was read for the commissioners. Past-Chair, Jack Stapley recommended Commissioners Yoshioka and Lynch to serve on the nomination committee with him. Commissioner Branch motioned, seconded by Commissioner Stapley, to approve the recommended committee. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

**ITEM #12 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Commissioner Branch asked that the approved schedule reflect and clarify that October's meeting is an optional meeting if needed.

**Item #12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None.

**Item #13 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Chairman Jarvis called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stapley motioned, Commissioner Lynch seconded. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 am.

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RJ Cardin, Director

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Robert Branch, Chair