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MEMORANDUM

Date: May 10, 2011
To: Parks and Recreation Department Commissioners
From: R.J. Cardin, Director
Re: Director's Summary of Current Events

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J.C.", is written over a horizontal line.

Listed below are issues that the department has been involved with since the April 12, 2011 Director's Summary.

Budget

General Fund (100) – Agency 300 - On the expenditure side, the General Fund is currently reporting expenditures 14% or \$71,007 under the year to date (YTD) budget. There are no revenues collected within the General Fund.

Enhancement Fund (241) – Agency 305 – The Enhancement Fund is currently reporting revenue at 17.5% or \$445,431 over the YTD budget. Enhancement Fund is currently 9.5% or \$117,049 under the YTD operating budget for expenditures.

Lake Fund (240) – Agency 302 – The Lake Fund is currently reporting revenues at 7.6% or \$90,484 over the YTD budget. Lake Fund is reporting operating expenditures under budget at 4% or \$48,532.

Spur Cross (225) – Agency 306 - Spur Cross is currently reporting revenues at 12.8% or \$16,205 over the YTD budget. Spur Cross is reporting operating expenditures under budget at 14% or \$32,235.

Superintendent Reports

Cave Creek Regional Park – The Park offered 29 interpretive programs in April with a total of 545 participants.

On May 9th the fall/winter season park hosts will be departing and on May 10th we welcome our new park hosts for the summer.

Desert Outdoor Center – The Center offered the second 'Paddle on Pleasant' kayak training on April 17th in partnership with the Coast Guard Auxiliary (CGA) and the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD). There were 12 participants who enjoyed the morning classroom session led by CGA instructors, followed by an afternoon hands-on instruction session from Natalie Harper & Jenny Work.

The Center offered a Paddle Craft Safety Training for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) adult leadership in an effort to increase year-round aquatic training. This instruction gives the leaders hands-on skills necessary to ensure a safe trip afloat with their troop.

The Center initiated a cooperative program for disabled persons with the City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Department called "Leave No Trace Paddle Fest Backyard Session". The City of Phoenix obtained sponsorship for the event from the "Leave No Trace" organization. Twelve paddlers picked up trash along the shore before enjoying a shoreline lunch.

Natalie Harper handed out flyers and answered questions about summer camp while manning a booth at the midway of Scout-o-Rama held at the Kiwanis Park in Tempe. There were approximately 6,000-8,000 attendees at this annual event showcasing Scouting in Arizona.

Natalie Harper, Terry Gerber and Georgette McNally of Cabelas have begun planning for the "Get Wet" Beginner Kayaking program held during the Summer and Fall 2011 in cooperation with Cabelas. The program will include a free one-hour informational training on Friday evening at Cabelas in Glendale, followed by a 3-hour on-the-water kayaking session Saturday. Three dates have been selected so far: August 5 & 13, Sept. 2 & 10, and Oct. 7 & 15.

Natalie has contacted Eric Proctor, Educational Coordinator with AZGFD to discuss the possibility of holding a Crayfish teacher workshop at the DOC sometime in late summer or early fall. Natalie plans to expand this workshop to create an Invasive Species program to add to the DOC's existing year-round programs for outdoor education.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park – There were 33 interpretive programs conducted with over 300 participants, 46% of the participants were new visitors to the park. The big program for April was the "Day of the Spanish Horse" with over 1,000 in attendance. Park visitors were treated to performances of beautiful Spanish horses, dancers, food, beverages and musicians.

Easter weekend was well attended with more than 7,200 park visitors. Many visitors came as early as Friday night to camp out so they would have a spot under a tree for their Easter picnic.

There were over 50 teens and adults came to volunteer from the City of Avondale for their "Global Youth Services Day" project. This group armed with rakes, hoes and shovels cleared overgrowth near the Nature Center. This project not only helped to keep unwanted plant growth down in certain areas but will be beneficial to our fire prevention plan.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park – The Dam Good Run/Walk Saturday April 2nd was a big success with 150 participants. Staff received multiple compliments on how organized the event was, and the fun and the beauty of the park.

Valley Luna had a fun filled weekend April 2-3rd with a campout and fishing tournament in Fireman's Cove.

The Tribal Spirit Triathlon had 156 participants swimming, running, biking to the cheers of spectators.

On April 23rd, the Lake offered Cast for Kids with over 300 children participating.

The Aqua Fria Conservation Area had an open gate day Saturday April 23rd and approximately 20 happy fishermen enjoyed the striped bass fishing.

Over 200 children enjoyed a morning of fun, hunting and tasty treats at the Park Easter Egg Hunt.

Adventure Day Saturday April 30th had to be cancelled due to winds over 40 MPH and high waves (5-6 feet). The conditions posed a danger to divers and kayaking participants.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park – Interpretive Ranger Amy offered 43 programs including Stargazing for Everyone. Over 400 participants joined in on the fitness and learning fun during the month of April.

A nearly 3-year project of eradicating the cattails from Nursery Tank Pond was completed in April. Those pesky cattails had nearly taken over the pond before cutting and spraying began to reduce their numbers. At the end of April only a few dead stocks were left as a reminder of what had been.

In anticipation of amending the Master Trail Plan for the park, the Eastside Superintendent, Park Supervisor and Trail Supervisor met to discuss new trails that will enhance the system already in place. The next two months will be spent looking at possible new routes and fine-tuning amendments that will enhance the park visitors' experience.

Approval was received for four more tent sites in the Ironwood Picnic Loop. Fire rings have been installed and tent site signs have been ordered. The park will be able to accommodate 10 tent campers every evening.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park – The Park offered 15 interpretive programs and activities during April. The programs brought in 560 park visitors. The program highlights of the month included the Scrambled

Eggstravaganza Scavenger Hunt; Full Moon Hike; Archaeology Talk; Intro to Archery; and Wacky Wildlife Water Day.

San Tan staff was offered a booth at the Edu-Prize Spring Spectacular. Staff promoted the park and educated attendees about nature and they were treated to a delightful assortment of wildlife displays and other interactive exhibits.

The San Tan Interpretive Ranger was invited to attend the Town of Queen Creek's Senior Day and brought out a few critters and park information.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area – The Park Supervisor presented the “Spur Cross experience” to a graduating class of ASU law students specializing in urban planning and open space issues.

Spur Cross offered 22 exciting interpretive programs and activities during the month of April with over 200 participants.

Park staff has been actively combating star thistle. After 4 years now, at this level of effort we are limited to merely controlling it, and then only in the 2 primary treatment blocks. We cannot seem to eradicate it with our current methods and available personnel.

Spur Cross co-hosted with Cave Creek the 2nd annual open space trail run fundraiser. Over 350 runners participated and approximately \$8,000 was raised for state land acquisition.

Park staff has been coordinating with the 7-Crew to replace the Spur Cross porta-potties with comparatively much nicer ADA compliant portable toilets. Construction of a pad and installation are planned for May.

Usery Mountain Regional Park – The Usery campground and group camping has been active in April 2011 due in part to the beautiful weather for Easter and the entire month. While here, campers are taking advantage of the Nature Center, interpretive ranger programs and yoga.

The Park hosted 88 interpretive programs in April with a total of 2,374 participants and 976 repeat attendees. The Owl Wingding; Venomous Reptiles; and Flashlight Night Hike were April crowd-pleasers along with the always-popular Full Moon Hike. The All About Brown-bag lecture series featured butterflies, ants, scorpions and desert holes and had 270 attentive listeners.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park – The Park had 27 programs during April with 1,850 visitors participating, including over 250 attending the moonlight hike.

The new POS reservation system went live April 4th making for a busy week as staff was training. The transition went smoothly with only a few minor issues.

The Thunderbird District Boy Scout Camporee had 216 participants staying at the Competitive Track. They were a great group and did a super job of cleaning up and taking care of the park.

Easter Sunday was very busy but with the new POS system we were able to keep the line at the gate to just a few cars with minimum wait.

The First Annual Art Fair was organized by the soon to be “Friends of White Tank Park” on April 30th. There were 10 artists who displayed their crafts and sold their wares including several photographers, jewelry makers and sculptors.

Contract Updates

Nothing to report.

Coming and Going in Human Resources

Interviews will be held on May 9, 2011, for the vacant full-time Contact Station Assistant position at Lake Pleasant.

Interviews will be held on May 10th & 11th to hire three part-time Recreation Assistants for summer help at Lake Pleasant.