

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of November 12, 2008

LOCATION: 234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurel Arndt, Rod Jarvis, Salomon Leija, Anne Lynch, Joseph Marvin, Jack Stapley, Carl Yoshioka

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent, Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent; Allen Ockenfels, Trail Development Supervisor; Tom Timmons, Contract Administrator; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Melanie Brown, Grant Coordinator; Karen Truesdale, Administrative Supervisor; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Assistant and recorder; Adrian Gough, County Attorney – Civil Division

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the November 12, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

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

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2008 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Motion to approve the minutes as written by Commissioner Arndt, second by Commissioner Stapley.

ITEM #4 - DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Director Cardin advised the Commission of a recent meeting with the Town of Cave Creek. The Town of Cave Creek had picked Spur Cross for a tour for an economic development from China – complete with cowboy hats!
- The new Interpretive Ranger at McDowell started on November 3.
- Eastside Regional Superintendent, Teresa Retterbush has put together a 'Maintenance Day' for maintenance staff to all get together once a month at a specific park.

- Avondale picked Estrella Mountain Regional Park for their annual 'Make a Difference Day'.
- At Adobe Dam Regional Park the new water park development has scheduled to start demolition soon on the old venue, and is planning on a summer 2009 grand opening of the new facility. They are looking to make the new water park a vacation destination, much like Disneyland.
- At Scorpion Bay Marina the County is ready to issue a temporary certificate of occupancy, but now the City of Peoria is requesting further information and fire sprinklers at each boat dock.

ITEM #5 – TRAIL SUPERVISOR INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE – Allen Ockenfels, Trail Development Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- Director Cardin introduced Allen Ockenfels as the new Trail Development Supervisor.
- Allen introduced himself and gave a brief history of his work with the department on the Trails Crew and that his experience took him to work at all the parks, so he is familiar with all areas. Currently they are working at San Tan, and are working on access issues at McDowell and have plans to develop a Trails Plan for the Lake.

ITEM #6 – UPDATE ON BUCKEYE HILLS SHOOTING RANGE – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- The Board of Supervisors approved the name of General Joe Foss Shooting Range at Buckeye Hills Park and Ensign John C. Butler for the 200 yard rifle range. There is still one range that is not named.
- Tom Timmons, Contract Administrator for the department is working with the Buckeye Sportsman's Club to manage the facility and on an IGA with Arizona Game and Fish for technical assistance for the facility. The facility, though new, is empty – Arizona Game and Fish advised the department that they may have some furniture from the old office building that could be used.
- The Buckeye Sportsman's club is looking to have the facility open on Saturday and Sundays to the public and the department currently has a few law enforcement agencies interested in using the facility during the week. A January grand opening has been set.
- Commissioner Marvin asked if the facility would be a revenue source. Director Cardin stated not at this time, but hope for it to be in the future. Noting that it would be a net zero facility, in that the department does not have to put money into the facility.
- Commissioner Leija asked what the public fee would be. Director Cardin noted the proposed fee would be \$ 6.00 a person, which is the same as other shooting ranges in the valley.

ITEM #7 – SYSTEM MASTER PLAN UPDATE – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM*

- System Master Plan updates were given to the Commissioners with Director and department comments for review. Director Cardin began by reviewing the comments provided to the Commission. Also noting that some of the previous aggressive start dates that were provided for 2009 have now been pushed back to 2010 due to limited resources.
- Commissioner Arndt stated that there are still communities nearby the parks that want access to nearby park. The communities, especially gated communities need to pay an annual fee for each

house for access. Director Cardin noted, that communities wanting access is something that is and will be a part of the 'Access' segment of the System Master Plan.

- Commissioner Stapley asked that with the recent changes done to the System Master Plan, is staff confident that this is what the department needs. Director Cardin stated that he is satisfied and confirmed that the information contained in the System Master Plan is a good base line for our department.
- Motion to approve the System Master Plan as amended to go for public meetings – by Commissioner Marvin , second by Commissioner Stapley

ITEM #8 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORHT REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Jennifer Waller stated (Informational packets were handed out to the Commissioners) that it was two years ago that the department came together with the Bureau of Reclamation and determined that the Agua Fria area was in danger. At that time a planning partnership was formed to meet and discuss what could be done to save the area. In July of 2007 was the actual closure of the area to all vehicular traffic began and only to allow traffic on foot - which is a short term fix.
- During the long term planning process, Arizona Game and Fish (AZGFD) did a monitored access pilot program for six weeks last year, at which time it was determined that 62% were anglers – boating, fishing; 9% were aquatic – swimming; and 29% were land based – picnic, day use, dog walking.
- The area is now on the road to recovery and has been planned for seasonal vehicular use and year-round pedestrian (hiking, walking, horseback riding) and would be day use only. In the packets are Phase I, II and III – including a map.
- At Phase I it was determined that AZGFD did not have the staff to man the gate, nor did the parks department and we need the park hosts to regulate access. A park host compound, and develop a public parking area and basic amenities - Phase I is more aggressive and includes launch ramps (both paved and primitive). A delineated road will need to be established (using cables and poles) and named. The policy on access issues of the spider trails will be addressed as well.
- Phase II includes – a mobile mini unit for an entry station ((short term), and long term is to develop a multi agency center where classes could be held and working with the Sheriff's office, AZGFD, Bureau of Land Management and other agency's. A day use area would include picnic tables that would be portable if the water levels rose.
- Phase III would include restrooms, ramadas, a playground and would offer back country camping (by permit only), as well as wild life viewing areas and include the trail corridor.
- November 20 is a meeting of all partners for a final wrap up, in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation. It was determined that an Environmental Assessment will need to be completed. Pre-Scoop meeting is on December 16, and it will go before the public one more time in January.
- Commissioner Stapley stated that a permanent bridge in the area seems ideal. Ms. Waller noted that there will be a lot of contingencies and though ideal, a bridge was not on the radar during this plan due to the high cost. The department still reserves the right to close the area as needed if degradation occurs.
- Director Cardin noted that the road will be maintained as primitive and will be signed as a high clearance road.

ITEM #9 – SET JANUARY 2009 COMMISSION MEETING DATE – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission –ACTION ITEM

- Motion to approve Tuesday, January 13 as the first Parks Commission meeting for 2009 by Commissioner Jarvis, second by Commissioner Arndt. All in favor opposed by the same sign, motion carries.

ITEM #10 – NOMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT AND NOMINATION OF OFFICERS – Rod Jarvis, Chair – Nomination Sub-Committee, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Jarvis, Chair for the Nomination Sub-Committee reported that the committee met directly after the October 21 meeting and will nominate Commissioner Stapley as Chair and Commissioner Arndt as Vice-Chair for the 2009 Commission Officers.

ITEM #11 – ELECTION OF 2009 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OFFICERS – Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission –ACTION ITEM

- The Commissioners will now vote on Jack Stapley as Chair and Laurel Arndt as Vice Chair. All in favor none opposed – motion is carried.

ITEM #12 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None.

Item # 13 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None.

Item # 14 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Anne Lynch, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Jack Stapley, Chair (2009)