

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of January 13, 2010

---

<b>LOCATION:</b>	234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Rod Jarvis, Salomon Leija, Anne Lynch, Joseph Marvin, Jack Stapley, Carlton Yoshioka
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	District 1 (vacant)
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	R.J. Cardin, Director; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Jennifer Waller, Westside Regional Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Regional Superintendent; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer, Karen Truesdale, Administrative Supervisor; Tom Timmons, Contract Administrator; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Kristen Mohamed, Parks Planner; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator and Recorder

---

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the January 12, 2010 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

- 9:01 a.m.

**ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL –**

- It was noted that Commissioner Laurel Arndt had turned in her resignation as a Maricopa County Parks Commissioner.
- Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

**ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2010 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM**

- One correction to the November minutes, noted by Chair Leija; add Joseph Marvin to the Commission Members Present section on page one.
- Motion to approve the minutes with the one correction by Commissioner Lynch. Seconded by Commissioner Stapley. All in favor none opposed.

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

- Director Cardin stated that Commissioner Arndt had telephoned him and let him know that she had turned in her resignation to Supervisor Brock's office the week of January 4. She also included a few recommendations for her replacement.
- Budget review, included advising the Commissioners that as of this date there are not budget cuts scheduled for the FY10 budget. Also that there will not be any increases to any budgets or salaries.
- Both Spur Cross Conservation Area and Cave Creek Regional Park were involved in the Town of Cave Creek Bike Race.
- The Mesa Convention and Visitor's Bureau held a members' networking meeting at the Usery Nature Center. The Usery Park supervisor is doing a monthly radio program with the show Mesa Talking.
- McDowell parks' new race – Muddy Buddy was extremely successful. This was the first year this race was held in Arizona and at McDowell Park. Founders of the race have already requested a date for the race next year at McDowell.
- Commissioner Stapley asked about the new radio program that Usery is involved in. Jennifer Johnston stated that the program is recorded the first Monday of each month and then the program – Mesa Talking - will run throughout the month.
- Chair Leija asked what, exactly the Muddy Buddy race is. Superintendent Retterbush stated that the race is a nationwide bike race that involves two partners and in the last portion of the race participants have to carry their bikes through a large mud pit.
- Chair Leija noted that he wanted to thank all the parks and staff for reaching out to the community.

**ITEM #5 – EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – PRESENTATION ITEM**

- Director Cardin stated that the November Employee of the Month is David Jordan, Park Supervisor at San Tan – though David was unable to make today's meeting he wanted to say that David has done a great job out at San Tan without having a full time Ranger. A round of applause for David, he's doing a wonderful job.
- Director Cardin stated that the Employee of the Month for December is Park Supervisor, Jennifer Johnston for Usery. She not only has some amazing programs there, but has a lot of new programs that have been introduced to the department. Thank you Jennifer (photo with the Director).

**ITEM #6 – SET REMAINING 2010 COMMISSION MEETING DATES – Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission –ACTION ITEM**

- The February meeting is now confirmed for the Arizona Audubon. Commissioner Lynch motions to approve the schedule for 2010 Commission meetings. Commissioner Jarvis seconded. All in favor none opposed.
- Chair Leija with permission from Director Cardin noted that if any Commissioners would like to request a meeting be at a park in their district please give two months notice to arrange.

**ITEM #7 – CAMPING POLICY REVIEW – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**

- Director Cardin noted that the discussion of Camping Policy started at the November meeting. There were a couple public speakers commenting on the camping policy and he then requested to have Camping Policy reviewed on the January agenda. Eastside Regional Superintendent Teresa Retterbush was introduced to provide input.
- Teresa Retterbush advised the Camping Policy was reviewed and the policy does state a 14 day camping limit. The policy does not have a provision for 'days out'. The practice has been in the parks that if there is no one waiting to camp the stay can be extended. During the busy season, January, February and March the department is running into problems of in-state residents coming to camp, but the sites are full mostly with out of state visitors. Most of the out of state visitors know how to use the system and come in on the slow days so they are able to renew.
  - The current camping revenue is approximately 25% of the revenues that come in to the parks; which also includes concessions. This year is projected at \$1.4 million, a significant portion of revenue.
  - Research has shown numerous local, state and federal camping policies vary for maximum length of stay. Also noting that all of those agencies had reservation systems and most policies contain a clause that the park supervisor can amend the policy as they see fit.
    - It was noted that the department is in the process of obtaining a reservation system which would help tremendously. The current policy on camping is first come first serve.
  - The Camping Policy is being enforced department wide.
- Director Cardin stated that the rates were recently raised and asked the Superintendents if the Parks were full at this time.
  - Superintendents noted that Usery and Cave Creek were full, this mainly affects Cave Creek Park, McDowell Park and Usery Park.
    - Currently if a park is full, staff and volunteers are to check the other parks to make a recommendation.
- Commissioner Jarvis asked about the utilizing of the State Parks. Director Cardin stated that at the February meeting he would have more information on State Parks, but that specifically utilizing them could be researched though only Lost Dutchman - by State Park Policy there are not any State Parks in Maricopa County.
- Director Cardin stated that this item be put on the February agenda, also reminding Commissioners that the department does offer a two for one discount on camping in October and November, which was intended for in-state visitors. Then introduced Usery Park Supervisor Jennifer Johnston.
- Jennifer Johnston stated that they love the county residents and the support of them. She advised the Commissioners that staff have brainstormed many ideas.
  - One idea is to hold a number of sites for in-state residents, and to only release them if there are not used by a certain time of day.
  - Recommends and encourages people to call in to check on site availability.
  - Staff and volunteers at Usery stick to the policy of the 14 day limit; the only allowance is if they have a medical issue or mechanical issue that prevents them from moving or leaving.
  - She volunteers Usery to try and use a new revision to policy or ideas.
- Chair Leija suggests to possibly add more camp sites in the future.
- Public speaker – Tom Jacobsen of Gilbert, Arizona requested to speak in regards to Usery Park and camping for Arizona residents in winter. First commends what is being done, and stated that he

loves Usery Park and is encouraged by some of the ideas presented today, including the new system.

- Some winter visitors will still find a way around the system, suggests that maybe once they go out they can't go back until 3:00 or 4:00p.m.
  - States that this is a complex issue and to possibly lower the rates a couple dollars for instate.
  - Offers his services as someone of the public for any study groups.
  - Understands the revenue issue.
- Director Cardin noted again that this item will come back in February and information will be included in that packet to the Commissioners.

**ITEM #8 – UPDATE ON FEES – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – PRESENTATION ITEM**

- Director Cardin stated that since the fee increase very few complaints have been received. Superintendent Waller concurred.
- Commissioner Lynch asked about the wedding fees that were delayed by the Board of Supervisors, did that ever get approved. Director Cardin advised that the wedding fees were approved by the Board of Supervisors in December.

**ITEM #9 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR VULTURE PEAK, REVIEW OF DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK – Kristen Mohamed, Park Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION ITEM**

- Kristen Mohamed stated the consultant proposals were due on January 6. There were 10 proposals received, a short list will be determined by January 22. The review committee consists of four Parks staff and one from BLM. Ms Mohamed then asked Commissioners if they had any questions on the draft scope of work they had been emailed. No questions by the Commissioners.
- Chair Leija asked about the meeting date. Director Cardin stated February 4 is the public meeting, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The meeting will be held in Wickenburg at 6:00p.m.
- Commissioner Lynch stated that she knows a few people interested in this project and asked how the information is being made available to the public, where can she refer them to.
- The information will be sent out and all information is posted on the website for the Town of Wickenburg, along with the other agency involved and the County Parks website too.

**ITEM #10 – SET PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MCDOT) EASMENT REQUEST AT USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM**

- Ken Mouw reminded the Commissioners that county policy in affect states that the department requires two public hearings for easements.
- Mr. Mouw stated this request has no benefit to the Parks department. This easement is a renewal to an existing expired easement/road that is located in the southwest corner of the parks requested by MCDOT. The Parks department maintains the property and would grant an easement for access for MCDOT and the public (residents). The department will be compensated for this easement.
- Displayed a map to show the exact location.

- Commissioner Lynch asked how wide the street is or would be. Mr. Mouw stated that the street is a two lane residential. Part of the request is to pave this road and MCDOT would be paving the road with this easement request.
- Chair Leija advised that Commissioner Stapley has been asked and will chair the Usery easement request.
- Commissioner Lynch motioned to establish two public hearings. First meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 3 at 10:00a.m. at Usery Mountain Regional Park. Second meeting to be on Tuesday, March 9 at 8:30a.m. at the Parks downtown office (prior to the March Commission meeting). Second by Commissioner Yoshioka. All in favor none opposed.

**ITEM #11 – SET PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE (APS) AND QWEST EASEMENT REQUEST FOR WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM**

- Ken Mouw advised the Commissioners that this easement request for White Tank is for the benefit of the Parks department for APS and Qwest to work at the new Nature Center and Library. The department will not be compensated for this easement as it will benefit the department.
  - Displayed a map to show the exact location.
- Chair Leija advised that Commissioner Marvin has been asked and will chair the White Tank easement request.
- Commissioner Lynch motioned to establish two public hearings. First meeting to be held on Thursday, March 4 at 10:00a.m. at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. Second meeting to be on Tuesday, March 9 at 8:30a.m. at the Parks downtown office (prior to the March Commission meeting). Second by Commissioner Stapley. All in favor none opposed.

**ITEM # 12– CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Director Cardin advised the Commissioners that he would give an update on State Parks at the February meeting.

**Item # 13 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None.

**Item # 14 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Salomon Leija, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:15a.m.

---

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

---

Salomon Leija, Chair