

MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Special Meeting of January 17, 2023

LOCATION: Adobe Dam Regional Park, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Café, 4243 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Glendale, AZ 85310.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Mears, Megha Budruk, Jack Stapley, John Crane, Robert Branch, Shelby Scharbach, and Isabel Chavez

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: R.J. Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Amanda Lumbre, Administrative Assistant; and Betsy Pregulman, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the January 17, 2023, Parks and Recreation Commission special meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Eric Mears, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The special meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

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

ITEM #3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Chair Mears

ITEM #4 – WELCOME ADOBE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CONCESSIONAIRES – Emily Miller, Contract Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Mr. Donald Spiller, General Manager of Six Flags Phoenix, and Mr. Richard Girardo, President of the Arizona Model Pilots Society were present.

ITEM #5 – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RE-APPOINTMENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that John Crane was reappointed in December and that Eric Mears is scheduled to be reappointed at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on January 25.

ITEM #6 – NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND NOMINATION OF 2023 OFFICERS – Jack Stapley and Robert Branch, Subcommittee Members, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Commissioner Stapley informed the Commission that he and Commissioner Branch met and are nominating Commissioner Scharbach as Chair and Commissioner Crane as Vice-Chair for 2023.
- Commissioner Stapley thanked Chair Mears for his time and efforts as Chair during 2022.

ITEM #7 – ELECTION OF 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION OFFICERS – Eric Mears, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Chair Mears accepted Commissioner Stapley's nomination and asked for a second. Commissioner Budruk seconded. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.
- Commissioner Branch thanked Chair Mears for his leadership last year.

ITEM #8 – APPROVE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 15, 2022, REGULAR MEETING – Shelby Scharbach, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Commissioner Mears motioned to approve the November 15, 2022, regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Crane. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

Commissioner Chavez arrived at 10:09 am.

ITEM #9 – DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Director Cardin highlighted the purchase of 29.9 acres of property adjacent to the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. This purchase was in partnership with the Town of Cave Creek and Desert Foothills Land Trust. By acquiring this property, the access easement by private property owners has been extinguished. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the amendment to the Junior National Foundation's Use Management Agreement and the amendment to the Estrella Mountain Regional Park Master Plan to add the 18-hole golf course. The process still needs several environmental and cultural surveys before construction can begin. Commissioner Mears requested staff to provide additional presentations and discussions prior to large-impact projects similar to this so the Commission can be better informed before any recommendations to the BOS. The contract with SRP to design and construct an electrical distribution line to the San Tan Gold Mine Trailhead has been approved by the BOS. Other highlights include the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Department of Forestry and Fire Management to develop and implement fuel reduction plans in high wildfire threat areas with the parks.
- Commissioner Chavez inquired if the vandalism to the trails and fence lines at Estrella Park were due to people not wanting to pay the entrance fees, done by Phoenix International Raceway (PIR) campers or local residents. Ms. Teresa Retterbush, Development Superintendent, informed the Commission that the damage occurred on the back side of the park near the competitive track. The barbed wire will be cut to gain access to the park by OHV (off-highway vehicles) riders to gain access to the area. Attempts to repair the fence and add signage have not been successful and staff will look for other solutions. The vandalism is done (presumably) by area residents and occurs at several of the county parks.

ITEM #10 – MARICOPA COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION – Darren Gerard, Planning Services Manager, and Matthew Holm, Planning Supervisor, Maricopa County Planning and Development Department

- Director Cardin stated that as staff has been working on the Parks System Master Plan Update, questions have been raised about how Planning interfaces with the Park's system plan; an invitation was extended to the Planning Department to answer those questions.
- Mr. Holm provided an overview of the County's Comprehensive Plan and how it interfaces with zoning laws, the Parks' system plan, and other city plans. The Comprehensive Plan is a collection of information and data designed to cover a large area on a broad range of topics, to inform and guide future growth-related decisions, and to establish goals and policies that allow communities to function more efficiently and effectively for a ten-year timeframe. The plan is developed with extensive public input and is only applicable to unincorporated areas. The Plan serves as a decision-making guide, not as a regulatory function. The Plan consists of nine primary elements: land use; transportation; water resources; energy; environment; growth areas; open space; cost of development; and economic growth. Due to the size of Maricopa County, smaller, more localized area plans using the same elements are developed as sub-sets to identify and address the needs of the area.
- Commissioner Branch expressed his concerns that a city can disregard the County's plan when areas are strip annexed into a city, specifically the scenic corridor along Olive Avenue to the White Tank Mountains. Chair Scharbach inquired if the County needs to approve annexations. Mr. Holm replied that annexations are strictly between the city and the property owner(s). The Loop 303 and I-10 corridors are seeing the most growth with large distribution centers, data centers, and warehousing due to the high costs in California. Commissioner Mears inquired if there are tools that can be used at the County level to protect such areas as scenic corridors. Mr. Gerard replied that areas such as scenic corridors are part of the

planning and policy guidelines. As properties come in for development, current zoning laws can be applied to help implement policies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. This is done through a public process, however, it is extremely difficult to protect identified corridors using current zoning laws.

- Commissioner Mears inquired if a large area is annexed by a city, does each property owner need to agree. Mr. Holms said that it can be a percentage of the property and a percentage of property owners that can agree to the annexation. This scenario is commonly called a hostile takeover, but is not typically used. Annexation usually occurs by individual property owners.

ITEM #11 – MARICOPA COUNTY BRAND - Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Ms. Taylor provided a brief history of the County's seal. Through research, the County's Communication team learned that the residents often confuse the County with other city and town governments. Several County departments also branded their own department or services with an alternate logo. In 2019, the County hired a local advertising and marketing agency to develop a modern design incorporating the County's art, architecture, highways, and the uniqueness of the Sonoran Desert into one design. The new logo was rolled out last week and will be used on all documents throughout the County with the exception of the Sheriff's Office. The original seal will continue to be used on legal documents such as birth certificates and court documents.

ITEM #12 – SET MARCH COMMISSION MEETING LOCATION – Shelby Scharbach, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Mr. Cardin recommended Cave Creek Regional Park. Commissioner Branch made the motion to have the March meeting at Cave Creek Regional Park, seconded by Commissioner Mears. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM #13 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Mr. Luke Ross submitted a request to speak form but left before this time.
- Mr. Richard Girardo, Arizona Model Pilots Society, invited the Commissioners to visit their facility where they train young ROTC cadets and other young men and women how to fly. Their Greenfest event is an all-electric aircraft demonstration scheduled in March.

ITEM #14 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None

ITEM #15 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Chair Scharbach called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mears motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 am, seconded by Commissioner Crane. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.