

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Regular Meeting of March 19, 2019

LOCATION: Lake Pleasant Regional Park Discovery Center, 41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Road, Morristown, Arizona, 85342

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Megha Budruk, Thomas Rhoades, Jack Stapley, and Denise Merdon,

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Isabel Chavez, Robert Branch, and Eric Mears

STAFF PRESENT: RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; 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 March 19, 2019, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Thomas Rhoades, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The regular meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

ITEM #2 – INVOCATION – Provided by Mr. Jim O’Connor

ITEM #3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Mr. Jim O’Connor

ITEM #4 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

ITEM #5 – SURPRISE CELEBRATION - R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Director Cardin introduced Mr. Rem Hawes from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Hawes was accompanied by Mariela Castaneda, PIO, Mr. Ron Tipton, Acting Hassayampa Field Manager, and Mr. Tyler Lindsey, BLM Phoenix Lands Office. Mr. Hawes informed the Commission that the BLM will be signing the 25-year lease agreement for management of approximately 1,046 acres of Vulture Mountains by Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department at the Maricopa County Board of Supervisor’s meeting next week.
- Chair Rhoades expressed his excitement of this news and acknowledged all the hard work that has gone into this partnership. Commissioner Stapley also expressed his excitement that the County park system is expanding and that Vulture Mountain will be a strategic part of that plan. Commissioner Budruk acknowledged that staff and the Commission have been looking forward to this for a long time.
- Director Cardin invited the Commissioners to attend the Board of Supervisor’s meeting on March 27, 2019. Director Cardin stated that he looks forward to the continued partnership with BLM as the County builds facilities to orientate visitors to the natural landscape and encourage them to explore the remaining 77,000 acres management by BLM. Director Cardin expressed his appreciation and thanks to all County staff that has worked on this goal for many years.

ITEM #6 – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENT – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that District 5 Commissioner, Isabel Chavez, has been reappointed for another two year term.

ITEM #7 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Director Cardin provided highlights from the report to include: the 2019 Prickly Pedal race was held on January 19 with 400 riders; the Wet 'n Wild water park is now Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix; the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce presented the “2018 Ambassador of the Year” award to the staff and volunteers at the Hassayampa River Preserve.
- Director Cardin informed the Commission that the next regularly scheduled meeting in May would need to begin at 9:00 am as it will be held at Hurricane Harbor and the meeting needs to conclude before it is open to the public; the consensus was that earlier time will be acceptable.
- The supervisors provided brief highlights from their divisions.

ITEM #8 – COMMISSION MEETING INVOCATION DISCUSSION – Thomas Rhoades, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- This item will be tabled until the end of the year.

ITEM #9 – McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE – Lauren Bromley, Parks Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- The draft parks master plan update had been sent to the Commissioners a few weeks prior for review. Ms. Bromley asked if there were any questions or comment regarding the plan. She updated the Commissioners on the outcome of the comments provided during the January park tour regarding recouping the costs and management of the proposed cabins. Verbiage and general mapping areas have been incorporated into the plan to allow for various locations on BLM or State Land areas within the park; which would allow for a possible concessionaire agreement to be established in the management of the cabins.
- Commissioner Stapley motioned, that after the typographical errors are corrected in the document, the McDowell Mountain Regional Park Master Plan Update be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Merdon. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.
- Director Cardin thanked the staff that have been a part of this master plan process.

ITEM #10 – PROPOSED FY20 OPERATING BUDGET – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that Parks FY20 budget was submitted to the Office of Budget with tentative approval by the Board of Supervisors on May 22 and final adoption on June 24, 2019. The FY20 budget submittal was a flat operating budget (except for an increase in expenditures to match the increase in revenue at Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area) and is balanced.

ITEM #11 – FY19 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS STATUS UPDATE – Ken Vonderscher, Planning and Development Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Mr. Vonderscher provided a brief overview of the 10-year CIP schedule; prioritizing projects by public safety, visitor experience and available funding. Parks collaborates with several other County Departments, including Facility Management and the Transportation Department, in the design and construction of joint projects.

ITEM #12 – LAKE PLEASANT GOVERNMENT DOCK – Emily Miller, Contract Administrator, and David Jordan, Lake Pleasant Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Mr. Jordan informed the Commission that the current boathouse/dock was acquired in the early 1990’s. The structure has deteriorated and is unsafe. Maricopa County Sheriff’s office (MCSO) has an enclosed facility located within Scorpion Bay Marina and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) uses a vacant boat slip. Proposed layout design plans and cost share agreements are in development to build a joint secure facility to include MCSO, AZGFD, and Parks.
- Ms. Miller provided an overview of the timeline: discussions began in 2016; anticipated construction to begin in April 2019; 80% completion in June 2019; and 100% completion in September 2019.

ITEM #13 – 100 MILES IN 100 DAYS CHALLENGE RESULTS – Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer, and Jennifer Johnston, Westside Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

- Ms. Johnston and Ms. Taylor informed the Commission that the Challenge was introduced in 2012 as a program to celebrate the Arizona Centennial. The program was so popular that it has been held every year since. Improvements in the 2019 program included a new registration form, a mileage tracking app, and an e-log submittal form. The Facebook page had 313 more followers than 2018; 410 participants completed the program (285 annual pass holders); and participants trekked 55,289 miles.
- Santa Clara County and Pinal County will be offering their own version of the Challenge next year. In addition, Maricopa County will open the challenge up to County employees as part of the *Stay Well* program.
- Chair Rhoades asked if there are goals for next year. Ms. Taylor informed the Commission they include improving the communication process and keeping participants engaged throughout the program. Commissioner Budruk inquired on the feedback regarding the app. Ms. Taylor said the feedback was wide ranged. Commissioner Budruk encouraged Parks to submit award applications and articles to larger groups such as NRPA.

ITEM #14 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

ITEM #15 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Chair Rhoades invited available Commissioners to join the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Celebrations.

ITEM #16 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Chair Rhoades asked for a motion to adjourn, motion made by Commissioner Stapley, seconded by Commissioner Budruk. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.