



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL KIVA
3939 DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009**

Minutes

- PRESENT:** Robert Frost, Chair
Jeanne Alspaugh, Vice-Chair
George Adams, Commissioner
John Faramelli, Commissioner
Ron King, Commissioner
Stan Koczka, Commissioner
- ABSENT:** James Duchene, Commissioner
- STAFF:** William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director
Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator
Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Manager
Trina Clemens, Admin Secretary
Jeff Cesaretti, Assistant Stadium Coordinator
Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager
Barry McGlacken, Recreation Leader
Don Hadder, Planning Department
Brett Jackson, Maintenance Coordinator
Walt Johnson, Sr. Recreation Coordinator
Sam Kelly, Assistant Coordinator
Tom Lazear, Maintenance Coordinator
Steve Lehmann, Senior Recreation Coordinator
John Loleit, Recreation Coordinator
Doug Nesselroad, Parks & Recreation Manager
Lorelei Oien, Admin Secretary
Mari Steinbach, Parks & Recreation Manager
Deanna Zuppan, Senior Recreation Coordinator
- GUESTS:** Randy Grant, Project Consultant, G and G Consulting
Ed Gawf, G and G Consulting
Luba Grosz, Vice President, Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park
Dan Haren, President, Miracle League of Arizona
Frank Ovari, Board Member, Miracle League of Arizona

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above, noting the presence of a quorum.

3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Chair Frost called for a moment of silence.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- **Regular Meeting of March 18, 2009.**

COMMISSIONER FARELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2009 REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER ADAMS SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

5. **MIRACLE LEAGUE OF ARIZONA**

Dan Haren, President of Miracle League of Arizona will present information on the mission and goals of the Miracle League. He will inform the Commission on the partnership between the Miracle League, City of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation, Scottsdale Unified School District and the Diamondbacks to build an adaptive accessible baseball field.

Mr. Haren said the purpose of the Miracle League of Arizona to build a ballpark in Scottsdale for children with special needs by the end of the year. There are currently about 200 Miracle League fields throughout the country. The Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) has been very supportive of the effort to build a field at Cheyenne Elementary School. It will cost about \$700,000 to build.

Special needs children are often left out of activities because of the lack of adequate facilities. There are about 17,000 special needs children registered in Maricopa County, and 2,950 in the SUSD. The Diamondbacks awarded the league with a field grant worth \$350,000 in cash and in-kind value. They will host a Miracle League Day at Chase Field this season, and have public service announcement running on all their game broadcasts. He said Harmon Killebrew is hosting a charity golf tournament in November to raise funds for the field.

Chair Frost noted that Commissioner Duchene sent an email expressing his support for this project, and hoped that the rest of the Commission shared his view.

6. ARBOR DAY UPDATE

Brett Jackson, Downtown Maintenance Coordinator, will present an overview of the Arbor Day celebration on April 2, 2009.

Mr. Jackson said Arbor Day was first observed in 1872 with the planting of over 1 million trees in Nebraska. Today it is celebrated throughout the world. The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Scottsdale as Tree City U.S.A. for the 27th consecutive year, and has awarded Scottsdale its Tree Growth Award for the 17th consecutive year. These are the longest such streaks of any community in Arizona. Scottsdale's Arbor Day was held on April 2 at Eldorado Park.

7. CAPELLA SCOTTSDALE AT PINNACLE PEAK PARK UPDATE

Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator, Community Services Department and Randy Grant, Project Consultant, G and G Consulting will present an update to the commission of the proposed Capella Scottsdale at Pinnacle Peak (Pinnacle Peak Resort).

Mr. Barnard reported that since Mr. Grant's last presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission denied the application submitted by the Capella Resort. On April 1, the Planning Commission rescinded their original vote, and the project is once again moving through the planning process. He explained that Mr. Grant has been invited to provide an update to the Parks and Recreation Commission, detailing changes that have been made in response to community concerns.

Mr. Grant noted that the developers are only going through the process to obtain site plan approval for the State Lands portion of the property. There are currently 58 parking spaces in the existing Pinnacle Peak Park trailhead lot. Staff has indicated that the overflow parking on 102nd Way accommodates 83 cars, and has determined that there is a need for 141 spaces to adequately serve the park. The developer of Capella Resort proposes to build a parking structure that would contain 100 spaces. The garage and parking lot together would total 158 spaces, which are 17 more than the requirement. If necessary, an additional 22 spaces could be created by removing a landscaped area near the entrance. This would allow room for 180 spaces, total. He said the Friends of Pinnacle Peak have identified the need for 100 to 120 spaces for overflow parking. There is enough room for 98 overflow spaces on the street within the development, and there would be no impact to existing on-street parking outside the development at all.

Mr. Grant said the developer's original intent was to keep the restaurant open as an amenity for park patrons, but the developer has decided to keep the cafe closed during daytime hours to ease parking concerns. He noted that the property is zoned C-2, and there are no requirements that any parking be provided for the Park. The developer has offered to provide parking as a public benefit, and to ease parking concerns at the resort. Each space costs about \$30,000. As other recreational opportunities become available in the area, the demands on Pinnacle Peak Park will likely decrease. A parking structure would also address current security concerns. The Capella Resort is designed to draw a new type of customer that normally does not come to Scottsdale. It will generate \$2.5 million in bed-tax revenues, and bolster property values in the area.

Chair Frost invited public commentary.

Luba Grosz said the Park Trailhead and Management Operations Plan established that the Park was created so that the public could enjoy the desert environment. The Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park was founded to ensure that the Park's ambience is preserved for future use. The group opposes several components of the Capella Resort site plan:

- Public access to the Park must be safe and not limited nor hindered in any way.
- Adequate parking must be established and maintained in perpetuity of the Park's existence and hours of operation.
- The natural environment must be retained and preserved within the Park area and surrounding NAOS and ESLO.
- The Park's natural beauty and environment is a community asset to be enjoyed not only by local residents and visitors, but also by commercial entities, restaurants and resorts in the surrounding business community.

The park requires 182 spaces of parking to satisfy measured actual use, especially during peak months. Businesses in the area will be impacted if this number is not available. The developer's message on the restaurant has varied constantly. Adequate parking for park visitors is an issue completely independent of the resort's plans for the restaurant. She requested a legally binding agreement between all stakeholders to ensure that 182 free spaces would be solely available to park users during park hours, and that this agreement be set in perpetuity.

Ms. Grosz noted the potential of a bottleneck at a point where the Park, the restaurant, the garage, and the entrances to Estancia and the resort all congregate. This layout would create a logjam of cars, complicate the ability of public safety officials to access the area, and would not permit adequate clearance for buses and horse trailers. The entrance area would be unsafe for pedestrians since there are no walkways. There would be no way to secure the Park from restaurant and resort guests who want to go there after closing.

She proposed several site plan scenarios to balance the concerns of the developer and the community.

1. Adequate designated parking for 182 total cars, providing full and safe access to the Park during peak periods, as outlined above.
2. A safe and unobstructed road and pedestrian pathways to the Park at all times, during and after construction.
3. Redesign the entrance to the underground parking garage so that instead of being on the garage's north side, it is on the east side.
4. Redesign the exiting trailhead parking lot to accommodate additional parking spaces, while maintaining considerations for fire lanes, easements, setbacks, NAOS, ESLO and park terrain.

She concluded by saying Pinnacle Peak Park is a Scottsdale landmark that residents and tourists visit daily. Access should not be limited only to those who are lucky enough to find space to park.

Chair Frost noted the comments of several non-speakers, who urged the City to protect Pinnacle Peak Park for all visitors, and to keep in mind the future needs of residents.

Commissioner King inquired whether the Police and Fire Departments approved the plan. Mr. Hadder responded that public safety officials reviewed the plan as part of the regular development review process, and that it met their standards. Commissioner King inquired whether there were any guarantees that the public would have access to the parking structure in the future. Mr. Hadder explained that there are plans for a zoning stipulation requiring that parking be provided to the public from sunrise to sunset. There will also be a contractual development agreement between the City and the developer.

Commissioner King inquired about anticipated future Park usage. Mr. Barnard responded that staff intends to analyze Park usage to determine its capacity. The Park has been impacted greatly by heavy usage. Staff is developing a strategic plan to address Pinnacle Peak Park as well as the rest of the system. Commissioner King surmised that parking needs are only going to increase over time. He suggested the developer should consider building the extra 22 spaces up front. Mr. Murphy explained that the City would have to expand the trailhead parking lot as part of a CIP project. Commissioner King felt the developer should take on that part of the project, given the state of the economy.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Faramelli, Mr. Grant explained that 102nd Way is on private property with an access easement that was granted to allow access to Estancia across State land. The parking structure is essentially being built to accommodate the overflow parking that has typically gone along 102nd Way. He noted that the developer is offering this solution voluntarily, since the property does not have to go through a rezoning process.

Commissioner Koczka expressed concern about bottleneck problems developing at the intersection. Mr. Grant responded that a traffic study is being developed for that intersection as part of the process. The entrance could be shifted if the study indicates a need to do so. Vice Chair Alspaugh encouraged the developers to explore every avenue to ensure that every available space is used wisely.

Commissioner Faramelli expressed concern that if this project goes away, the City could end up having to deal with another developer that is less willing to make these types of improvements.

Chair Frost inquired whether the City could stipulate that parking be made available in perpetuity. Mr. Hadder responded that zoning stipulations are always subject to future Council action. A development agreement, however, is a much more durable instrument. Chair Frost inquired whether the current developer could choose to close 102nd Way at any time. Mr. Hadder said the roadway has a public right-of-way easement that provides access to both the Park and Estancia. The current developer is the underlying property owner. Mr. Grant added that as part of the process, the property owner would be required to make a dedication for 102nd Way. Mr. Hadder noted that there are some serious potential safety issues in allowing garage access directly from 102nd Way, especially for cars exiting the garage and trying to turn left into the Park's parking lot.

Chair Frost said the Commission wants to ensure that people able to visit the Park in perpetuity. He expressed his appreciation that the developer is willing to provide 100 spaces to allow the Park to continue to operate. The Commission encouraged the developers to continue to work with the Friends, the staff, the Commission, and the rest of the community to mitigate their concerns.

8. SCOTTSDALE STADIUM AND INDIAN SCHOOL PARK UPDATE

Jeff Cesaretti, Assistant Stadium Coordinator, and Tom Lazear, Maintenance Coordinator, will present information on the 2009 spring training season and the 2008 year for Scottsdale Stadium and Indian School Park.

Mr. Cesaretti recapped the recently concluded spring training season in Scottsdale. Scottsdale Stadium hosted 21 home games, which was the most ever. Two of the games were televised nationally. Total attendance was nearly 178,000, which is a record for the stadium. The games brought in an estimated \$22 million to Scottsdale. The national team from Japan, champions of the World Baseball Classic, made their home at Scottsdale Stadium for three days this spring. They played an exhibition game against the Giants. The New Times also named Scottsdale Stadium as the best place to watch a spring training game.

The expansion of the stadium's recycling program resulted in over 38,000 pounds of materials being recycled. Scottsdale Community College students volunteered to pick up materials for recycling. The concessionaires also upgraded their equipment, and the stadium now has over 29 different food and beverage stations throughout the stadium, which is the most in the Cactus League.

Mr. Lazear reviewed spring training at Indian School Park. The facility hosted 40 games and 180 players on four fields. Extended spring training, the Rookie League, and the Instructional League will follow the regular spring training season. The professionals will be using fields 1 and 2, while the youth and adult leagues will use fields 3 and 4.

9. CHAPARRAL PARK, ADULT SPORTS, AND OFF LEASH AREA UPDATE

Walt Johnson, Sr. Recreation Coordinator, and Sam Kelly, Assistant Coordinator, will present an overview of Chaparral Park, including the Off-Leash Area and the Adult Sports programs.

Mr. Kelly said Adult Sports consists of softball, basketball, flag football, and kickball. Total participation is approximately 15,000, including spectators. The total revenue recovery is under \$458,000. Softball is the only sport that has both a men's program and a coed program. It is the largest sport in the program, and uses 14 fields at full capacity. The City uses Amateur Softball Association (ASA) guidelines, which includes equipment specifications. The umpires can remove any non-approved or unsafe equipment.

Three of the four basketball seasons feature five-on-five leagues; the other season features a four-on-four league. Flag football had 48 teams this year. The football program only runs on Saturday mornings, whereas the other sports usually run on weeknights. Kickball has grown from just one league with eight teams, to four leagues and 32 teams.

Mr. McGlacken provided an update on Chaparral Park. The park receives over 600,000 visitors per year. It has six lighted fields for adult and youth baseball and softball, three lighted soccer fields, a ten-acre fishing lake, four covered ramadas, a playground, an

off-leash area, and a xeriscape demonstration garden. The off-leash area is heavily used. It is divided into sections, and one section is kept closed on rotation, to allow for regeneration of the grass. Scottsdale has an intergovernmental agreement with the Game and Fish Department for the urban fishing program, which serves about 25,000 anglers per year. Rainbow trout are stocked from November to March, while catfish are stocked from March to June, and from September to November. No stocking occurs in July and August. Upcoming special events include the Wet 'n' Wild Water Day on June 20, and the Mighty Mud Mania on July 17.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORT

The Commissioners will give updates on events, activities and reports from committees they have been involved with since the last Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Alspaugh said she participated in the Cycle for the Arts event using a bike she earned from Handlebar Helpers. She also attended the Scottsdale Arts Festival this year. Commissioner Koczka said his out-of-town guests were impressed by the Tennis Center facilities and presentation.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director, will update the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation, and Parks and Grounds Management Divisions. This includes, but is not limited to, updates on programming, special events, calendars, and upcoming meetings.

Mr. Murphy said the Swimming Mentors Program is made possible by a grant from the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. Ten seniors have signed up so far, and the training dates will be held in May. He reported that the swim programs are currently underway with 745 participants registered. Thirty-three are on the swim teams, 459 are learning to swim, and the remainder are in the water exercise or conditioning programs. The Tennis Center has 22 adult leagues, and 28 sessions, for ages 5 through seniors. Sand volleyball had 61 teams this past winter league. The summer leisure education brochure is now available online, and hard copies will soon be sent out.

The Live Steamers held their Spring Train Meet in March at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, drawing members from throughout the west. The event had 1,226 riders over both days. The City is now accepting applications for the Youth Corps at Mountain View Park through April 30. Over 20,000 people attended activities at the Scottsdale Sports Complex in the past month. Eldorado Park held the 10th Annual Wedge Skate Park Competition on March 28, and 58 youth demonstrated their abilities. Youth basketball concluded its season in April.

Mr. Murphy noted that he would be presenting the budget to the Budget Review Commission on April 23. The Scottsdale Culinary Festival is being held this weekend at the Civic Center. April Pool's Day, the kickoff event for the summer program, is scheduled for April 25 at Eldorado. The event will feature water safety demonstrations, games and

contests, and the swimming is free. Scottsdale's Earth Day observance is on April 18 at Pinnacle Peak Park.

Mr. Murphy announced that Jan Cameron has been named the new Parks and Recreation Director, and that he has been assigned as Managing Director of Community Services.

Commissioner Kocka inquired about pool closures. Mr. Murphy explained that since his last presentation, staff has decided against recommending that any pools be closed. The pools will stay open year round, while the hours will fluctuate based upon attendance.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
AV-Tronics, Inc.

Meets established criteria.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William B. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

William B. Murphy
Parks and Recreation Director