



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
VIA LINDA SENIOR CENTER
10440 E. VIA LINDA
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85258
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2009**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Robert Frost, Chair
James Duchene, Commissioner
Ron King, Commissioner
Stan Koczka, Commissioner

ABSENT: Jeanne Alspaugh, Vice-Chair
George Adams, Commissioner
John Faramelli, Commissioner

STAFF: William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director
Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager
Mari Steinbach, Parks & Recreation Manager
Karen Weir, Recreation Coordinator
Reed Pryor, Parks and Recreation Manager
Jim Saunders

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:03 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 April 15, 2009.**

Chair Frost amended the last sentence of page 2 to read, "...and hoped that the rest of the Commission shared his view." He amended the sixth sentence in the first paragraph of item 9 to begin, "The City uses Amateur Softball Association..."

COMMISSIONER KOCZKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2009 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

5. PUBLIC SERVICE ETHICS TRAINING FOR APPOINTED CITY OFFICIALS

The Board/Commission will view a presentation by City Attorney Deborah Robberson on public service ethics for appointed city officials, which is required annually by Scottsdale Revised Code Section 2-48. Following the presentation, Senior Assistant City Attorney Jay Osborn will respond to questions the Commissioners may have concerning the presentation, the City's Public Ethics Program or Code of Ethical Behavior.

This item was tabled until the June 3 meeting.

6. SCOTTSDALE RANCH PARK TENNIS CENTER AND SPORTS COMPLEX

Karen Weir, Recreation Coordinator, will give an update on the Scottsdale Ranch Park Tennis Center and Sports Complex.

Ms. Weir reported that Scottsdale Ranch begins a summer schedule from June 1 to September 6, closing between the hours of 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tennis court fees will increase slightly starting in September, to cover the cost of lights in the evening. Reservations are no longer accepted for groups larger than 425 participants. This move was made in response to parking limitations at the facility. A new storage/concession building has been built for baseball, with funds donated by the Mountain View Little League.

Ms. Weir noted several major tennis events at the Tennis Center. The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) State High School Tennis Championships recently attracted as many to 300 people. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) Winter National Championship will take place at venues throughout the Valley, with the finals to be held at the Center. The Winter Nationals features competitions for girls and boys 16 to 18 who are ranked in the top 40. The Jeff Myers Memorial Junior Tournament is the Center's signature event.

A group of residents has proposed the idea of beach tennis leagues using the beach volleyball courts. Ms. Weir reported that the Movie in the Park event was held on April 25, in partnership with an HOA that paid for the park reservation, the food, and the movie. The City provided the equipment to show the movie. The next movie event is planned for September. In an effort to decrease the size of waiting lists, registration for junior and adult lessons was increased by one person each. This reduced the waiting lists by more than 100 people, and most have been very happy with the results.

Ms. Weir provided a breakdown of how the tennis courts are currently utilized. Of the 18 courts available, 44% are used for league play, roughly 16% to 28% are used for lessons, and 11% to 22% for open play. Club tennis has been providing another good new revenue source for the Center. Total participation in park activities has increased about 2.85% over the past year. Because of the state of the economy, municipal parks and libraries are seen as increasingly good bargains.

In response to a comment from Commissioner King, Ms. Weir explained that some have complained about lesson groups increasing to seven students, but in practice, most people embrace it, because not everyone comes to every session. Most other Valley cities have lesson group sizes ranging from 8 to 16 people.

Commissioner Duchene inquired about the impact of having fewer employees. Ms. Weir responded that the remaining full time staff have filled in for shifts, and services have not been cut back. Commissioner Duchene said Council should understand that the solution is something temporary, and cannot be sustained for long.

Commissioner Duchene inquired whether it would help to encourage people to ride bikes or use transit to alleviate the strain on parking at Scottsdale Ranch, and allow more participants. Ms. Weir responded that staff asks groups to consider booking Sundays rather than Saturdays, which would allow the use of parking at the Senior Center. Events are also staggered to avoid having too many people there at once.

In response to inquiries from Commissioner Duchene, Ms. Weir said the Mountain View Little League is sharing the use of the new concession stand with the City. The beach tennis activities would not interfere with beach volleyball as the group plans to use days when there are no leagues running, and they only need two courts.

7. PAPAGO PARK UPDATE

William B. Murphy, Parks & Recreation Director, will give an update on Papago Park.

Mr. Murphy said the Cities of Scottsdale, Tempe and Phoenix, along with the Salt River Pima/Maricopa Indian Community are involved in the Papago Park project. Olson & Associates has been contracted to conduct a master plan study and obtain public input. The consultants are also benchmarking some comparable facilities in other cities. The master plan process should be finished by September of 2009.

The first public meetings were held on April 29, and the consultants provided an overview of the project's scope. Eighty people attended the morning meeting, and

another 60 attended in the evening. Nearly 70% of the participants were from Scottsdale. The project is important to the city, especially considering the Mayor's plans for revitalizing McDowell Road and the neighborhoods adjacent to the Park. Papago Park is also important to tourism in Scottsdale.

The next meetings are scheduled for June 15 and August 20. An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed, consisting of the Parks and Recreation Directors from the participating cities, and a representative from the SRPMIC. Additionally, an Executive Team has been formed that will include Chairman Frost, Councilman Nelssen and Councilman Littlefield as representatives from Scottsdale. Residents are encouraged to provide feedback to an interactive website that has launched for the project, www.discoverpapagopark.com. Mr. Murphy said the feedback received from the work groups about how to utilize and protect the Park's extensive history was very constructive. The goal is to build consensus among all groups.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORT

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

Commissioner Koczka said he attended the opening of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Gateway. The area has a variety of trails of varying difficulty, including one very accessible one. He said he attended two recent tournaments at the Sports Complex. The high school tennis tournament was well run. The people he spoke to at the lacrosse tournament said they enjoyed the event and the facility. Commissioner Duchene described the Gateway opening as fabulous. He said he spoke to several residents who enjoy the after school programs provided by the City.

Chair Frost reported one group's complaint that they would not be able to rent a City pool facility because of the budget cutbacks. He said it is a struggle to explain to the public that the revenue that comes in from such uses does not pay for the employees that have to be there. Chair Frost said the Gateway structure looks like something that is built to last. He was impressed by the minimal impact that construction had on the environment, saying that is hard to tell it was recently a construction site. The trailhead should take some of the pressure off of Pinnacle Peak Park and attract more people who are looking for short hikes.

9. 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 budget meeting with Council is on May 19. Depending on the outcome, there will be a public outreach effort to inform citizens about any reductions that might impact Parks and Recreation programs. Updates will also be available on the website. In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Duchene, Mr. Murphy said any representation by the Commission at the meeting would be welcome, but he cautioned against the possibility of a quorum which would require posting.

Chair Frost inquired whether the Citizens Budget Review Commission discussed the Parks and Recreation budget when they made their presentation to Council. Mr. Murphy responded that the CBRC provided an overview of the information they have gathered during their fact-finding meetings. A majority support the budget submitted by the City Manager. Community Services was questioned about the closure of the Palomino Library. There has not been much discussion about Parks and Recreation programs, but that might change when the budget goes before Council.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Capella Scottsdale project was unanimously approved at the May 5 Council meeting. It now goes to Development Review, and preliminary designs might be available for review during the summer.

Ms. Cameron reported that the Adaptive Recreation Program Special Olympic athletes worked with the Scottsdale Police Department recently on the Annual Tip-a-Cop fundraising event. Almost \$3,000 was raised for Scottsdale Special Olympics. The spring session for the Adult Sports Program has 308 teams registered in softball, kickball, basketball, and flag football. Summer flower planting is underway on the Civic Center Mall. Staff has worked with two restaurants to convert some parking spaces to outdoor patios, which the restaurants will lease from the City. Club SAR revenue remains above last year's record total, and covers all their direct operating costs. Leisure Education classes began registration for a June 1 start.

The concert series at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park began on Sunday and will run through July 5. Pinnacle Peak Park celebrated its 7th anniversary on April 20. Volunteers were recognized for their service at a special dinner on April 24. The Scottsdale Sports Complex is hosting the Womens Division Intercollegiate Association National Championship Lacrosse Tournament. Many of the 16 teams come from California and Florida. The San Francisco Giants have extended spring training at Indian School facilities until June 3.

The Pima After-School Program was moved from the neighborhood park to the school, much to the approval of parents. Youth Development's Fitness Frenzy Program received a grant from the Salt River Pima/Maricopa Indian Community to focus on fitness-related activities and teaching healthy habits. The SRPMIC also granted \$8,400 to incorporate senior volunteers into the Learn-to-Swim Program. Fourteen volunteers have trained so far. This effort allows trained staff to focus on education.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 5:48 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